

Acting under the authority of M.G.L. 111 Sec. 31 and Sec.104, the Sudbury Board of Health voted to institute an indoor face covering mandate to begin on September 1st, 2021. The following was taken into consideration for the decision:

- [The Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) identified Middlesex County as an area of high on transmission of COVID on 9/1/21. There are four categories high, substantial, medium, and low;
- Fluctuating COVID positivity and incidence rates in Sudbury;
- [Significant breakthrough](#) of vaccinated people, equal transmission in vaccinated and unvaccinated (in most infectious phase of disease process);
- [Significantly higher viral load and therefore significantly higher rate of infectiousness of Delta;](#)
- Waning immunity and early stages of administering third doses for immuno-compromised and [boosters](#);
- Science has proven airborne transmission is the primary mode of [transmission for SARS-CoV-2.](#)
- With schools open (with large population of unvaccinated) the goal is to put simple and effective prevention measures in place on the individual level in public settings to protect everyone (including our immuno-compromised, elderly and those residents who are unable to be vaccinated).
- Currently the CDC advises if you are not fully vaccinated and [aged 2 or older](#), you should wear a mask in indoor public places.
- [The American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) advises all students older than 2 years and all school staff should wear face masks at school (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use). The AAP recommends universal masking in school at this time for the following reasons:
 1. a significant portion of the student population is not eligible for vaccination; protection of unvaccinated students from COVID-19 and to reduce transmission potential difficulty in monitoring or enforcing mask policies for those who are not vaccinated;
 2. in the absence of schools being able to conduct this monitoring, universal masking is the best and most effective strategy to create consistent messages, expectations, enforcement, and compliance without the added burden of needing to monitor vaccination status
- [The Department of Labor Occupational Health and Safety Administration](#) updated standards to include masking for vaccinated, as well as unvaccinated, workers in areas of high transmission.

We are closely following the COVID data which will eventually recede again and will rescind the mask mandate when the data implies it's safer to do so, as we did before. The Board voted to utilize a "low" risk classification for 2 consecutive weeks on CDC Middlesex County risk levels map as the sole metric to rescind or modify the mandate. CDC uses two specific criteria to determine risk level: 1. total cases per 100,000 over a seven day period and; 2. number of positive Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs) over the same period. CDC risk levels were developed and standardized for high, substantial, moderate, and low transmission. Utilizing county data, rather than just Sudbury, factors in a large worker population (5000-6000) entering Sudbury daily from higher risk cities and towns.

Link:https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html#county-view/Massachusetts/25017/Risk/community_transmission_level

Incidence rates and positivity rates will flocculate over the next year(s) and we are doing our best to be responsive for the public good—as is our charge. Keeping schools and businesses open is a huge priority and therefore keeping COVID rates as low as possible in Sudbury is essential.

MASSACHUSETTS COVID AND VACCINATION DATA CAN BE FOUND AT:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting> Rev. 10/13/2021



Sudbury Board of Health

Effective Sept. 1, 2021

**Face Covering Required in all Indoor
Spaces Regardless of Vaccination Status**

ATTENTION

**FACE
COVERING
MANDATE**

Unless Medical Exemption

