

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
BOARD OF HEALTH**

**COVID-19 MANDATORY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR WEARING OF MASKS OR OTHER
FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC PLACES IN THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON**

Commencing on April 16, 2020, at 12:01 a.m., the following Policies and Procedures **MUST** be implemented at all times at all businesses providing essential services in the City of Northampton.

On April 3, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control issued an Advisory with regard to the wearing of face coverings when people are unable to maintain safe social distancing. On April 10, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued a similar Advisory regarding the wearing of face coverings in public. The following Policies and Procedures are intended to expand on those Advisories and to provide specific direction for customers and employees of brick and mortar businesses providing essential services in the City of Northampton.

**MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED FOR EMPLOYEES OF BUSINESSES
IN THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON**

1. Employees of businesses in the City of Northampton who cannot maintain social distancing must wear masks or other face coverings at all times while on the premises of the business.
2. The employer of each such employee shall provide a cloth mask or other covering to such employee upon their arrival at the business, unless such employee chooses to wear a medical grade mask or filtered mask, which such employee provides for themselves
3. The employer shall provide a change of mask to each such employee every four (4) hours while the employee is on the premises of the business.
4. The employer shall be responsible for the cleaning and disinfecting all such provided masks before they are placed back into service and provided to another employee.
5. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the employer may allow employee-provided masks for one week following the issuance of this order or such time as it takes the employer to obtain a sufficient inventory of masks for provision to employees, whichever is sooner.
6. All cloth face coverings worn in accordance with this Order shall conform to the following:
 - a. Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; and
 - b. Be secured with ties or ear loops; and
 - c. Include multiple layers of fabric; and
 - d. Allow for breathing without restriction; and
 - e. Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

**MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED FOR CUSTOMERS OF BUSINESSES
THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON**

1. All customers of businesses in the City of Northampton must wear masks or other face coverings at all times while on the premises of the business.

2. Face coverings worn by customers in accordance with this Order shall be any cloth that securely covers the customer's nose and mouth, including but not limited to scarves, bandanas, turtlenecks or similar coverings.
3. Nothing in the preceding two paragraphs shall prohibit the removal of face coverings by customers of outdoor table service restaurants as permitted under the Governor Baker's COVID-19 Order No. 35. Removal of face coverings shall be permitted only while a patron is seated at an outdoor service table.

**MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS IN OUTDOOR PUBLIC PLACES IN THE CITY OF
NORTHAMPTON**

1. All persons shall wear a mask or face covering at all times while in the following public places:
 - a. Any place within the Central and General Business Districts as designated under the Northampton Zoning Ordinance.
 - b. Within any and all parks and recreation areas that have been opened to the public.
 - c. On any bike path or multipurpose trail, including but not limited to the MassCentral Rail Trail (Norwottuck section), Rocky Hill Trail, and the New Haven and Northampton Canal Rail Trail (Manhan section).
 - d. Any other public place within the City where one cannot reasonably expect to maintain at least six feet of distance from all other persons at all times.
2. Face coverings worn by persons in accordance with this Order shall be any cloth that securely covers the customer's nose and mouth, including but not limited to scarves, bandanas, turtlenecks or similar coverings.
3. Nothing in the preceding two paragraphs shall prohibit the removal of face coverings by customers of outdoor table service restaurants as permitted under the Governor Baker's COVID-19 Order No. 35. Removal of face coverings shall be permitted only while a patron is seated at an outdoor service table.

Important Exclusions:

Nothing in this order is intended to encourage residents to act as an enforcement authority for the City of Northampton. Residents should not take it upon themselves to approach people in violation of this order. Residents are urged to focus solely on their personal compliance with this order.

Nothing in this order shall be construed to require a mask to be worn by children under age two (2) or children who frequently compromise mask integrity with frequent manipulations or removals, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance or anyone who cannot wear a mask for other underlying health and safety reasons.

Nothing in this order shall be construed to reduce or eliminate the requirement of maintaining safe distancing.

Effective 12:01 a.m. on April 16, 2020.

Amended May 11, 2020

Amended June 5, 2020

Merridith A O Leary

Merridith O'Leary, Public Health Director