

WESTON BOARD OF HEALTH
Online Meeting Agenda for
Wednesday August 18, 2021 at 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Topic: Board of Health Meeting
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89999043117>
Call-in: 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 899 9904 3117
Residents may call in or join by computer

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, which includes an extension of Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting will be held via an online meeting platform. No in-person attendance of members of the public is available but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time including a dial-in option.

1. COVID-19 Virus / Vaccine Updates- Michele Fronk Schuckel, MBA, BSN, RN
2. Indoor Mask Order/Mandate for schools: K-12, Public and Private
3. Next Meeting date September 1, 2021
4. Adjourn

Remote Online Attendance and/or Call-in Participation Instructions

- To use Zoom with video on a smart phone or tablet you must download the Zoom app first. After you've downloaded the app, enter the Zoom Meeting ID.
- To use Zoom on a computer, you have to download an installer the first time you join a meeting, which you'll automatically be asked to do. After that, you'll join meetings automatically when you click on the meeting link.
- Use the call-in number to join the meeting in audio-only mode. The call-in number is access if your computer doesn't have a microphone/speaker.
- You will be entered into a "waiting room" prior to joining the meeting.
- If you are calling in on a phone, please keep yourself on mute. You can unmute yourself by pressing *6

Instructions for Public Comment and Attendance

- All participants will be on mute upon entering the meeting. Please keep yourself on mute
- The public is asked not to speak until the Chair asks for public questions/comments. Anyone who speaks over any member of the Board will be automatically muted
- To be recognized, click on the "Reactions" button on the lower (or upper) bar and activate the 'Raise Hand' icon. You will be placed in a queue and called upon in order.
- For participants calling in on a phone, press *9 to raise the hand icon
- The chat function has been disabled
- Participants do not have the ability to change their name while in the meeting
- Anyone who is seen holding up signs will have their video disconnected
- Anyone who is seen making rude or disruptive gestures will have their video disconnected
- Members of the audience who cannot conduct themselves in a civil manner will be placed in the waiting room for a period of time

BOARD OF HEALTH

School Mask Order

Order 21-____

Whereas, the Coronavirus Pandemic continues to affect all who live, work and learn in Weston; and

Whereas, in addition to drastically changing the lives of adults, the virus has significantly impacted Weston's school age children; and

Whereas, the Town is committed to sending our students back to school for in person learning this fall to protect our children's academic learning as well as for the social and emotional benefits that go beyond traditional learning;

Whereas, vaccines continue to be the best tool we have to battle Covid-19, but children under 12 are not eligible to be vaccinated; and

Whereas, recent data supports the conclusion that the so-called Covid-19 Delta variant is even more contagious, and more dangerous, than previous variants, that even vaccinated individuals have had "breakthrough" infections, and, further, that this dangerous variant will continue to spread throughout our part of country for some time; and

Whereas, the use of masks is one tool that has been shown to help to combat transmission of this disease, and whereas developing and implementing a system where vaccination status must be proven in the school setting in order to not wear masks will be administratively burdensome and potentially result in "othering" based upon vaccine status;

Whereas, the Board of Health and its agents will regularly review new virus data, including reported infection rates, hospitalizations and deaths, and consult with Town administration officials, including the Town Manager, Police and Fire Chiefs and communicate relevant information as it becomes available.

Now, therefore, for all of the reasons stated above, and after significant consideration, the Board of Health, consistent with the latest scientific data available, hereby adopts the following **School Mask Order** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.111, §§30 and 122:

- A. Masking in School Buildings - All persons over the age of 2, specifically including students/staff faculty and visitors, shall wear masks¹ indoors in all K-12 school buildings in the Town of Weston when the 2021/2022 academic school year begins, whether such buildings be public or private/independent, consistent with July 2021 recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)² and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)³, subject only to limited exceptions in Section C, and the exemptions in Section D;

¹ Masks should conform to the standards set forth by the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) and have two or more layers of breathable fabric, completely cover the wearers nose and mouth, fit snugly against the side of the face (without gaps), and can have a wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top. Masks with valves and single layer gaiter-style masks do not meet the requirement and should not be worn. While a face shield may be worn, it must be worn with a mask.

² COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

³ Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

- B. Masking on School Transportation Services - All persons over the age of 2 shall wear masks when on school buses providing school transportation services, subject to the limited exemptions below;⁴
- C. Limited Masking Exceptions – Notwithstanding the provisions of Section A, above, persons may remove their masks inside school buildings for the limited purposes of eating or drinking, whether during designated lunch or snack periods or as may be otherwise authorized, or as required pursuant to Section D;
- D. Masking Exemptions - Persons who fall into one or more of the following categories are exempted from the application of section 1 of this Order:
 - 1. The face mask or covering affects the person’s ability to breathe safely;
 - 2. The person has a mental health or other medical diagnosis that advises against wearing a face mask or covering;
 - 3. The person has a disability that prevents them from wearing a face mask or covering; or
 - 4. The person depends on supplemental oxygen to breathe.
- E. Enforcement – The Board of Health, or its designated agent, consistent with provisions of G.L. c.111, §30, shall be the enforcing authority for purposes of this order.
- F. Effective Date – This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded or superseded by further action of the Board of Health, or, in the event a stricter policy or mandate is adopted by the Governor, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, or Department of Public Health, any conflict will be resolved in favor of the stricter provision.

NOTE: Depending on the data, the advice of the APA or CDC or otherwise, the Board of Health may, through the amendment of the within School Mask Order, extend the application of this order to other school-related situations, including but not limited to being outdoors on campus, on field trips outside of Weston, during sports, while playing instruments, during singing or shouting activities, etc.

Signed and effective this ____ day of August, 2021

Chair, Board of Health (or agent)

⁴ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an [Order.pdf icon\[PDF – 11 pages\]](#) on January 29, 2021 requiring the wearing of masks by people on public transportation conveyances or on the premises of transportation hubs to prevent spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. This Order was effective as of 11:59 p.m. February 1, 2021 and was published in the [Federal Registerexternal icon](#) on February 3, 2021. https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Mask-Order-CDC_GMTF_01-29-21-p.pdf. See, also CDC guidance providing answers to frequently asked questions concerning requirements for Face Masks on Public Transportation Conveyances and at Transportation Hub, including school busses <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>.

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APPENDIX –

Additional Reading:

1. [State Laws on Compulsory Immunization in the United States](#) CHARLES L. JACKSON, M.A.
2. [As Covid-19 Surges, Campus Mask Mandates Make a Comeback](#)
3. Science Brief: Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs – Updated July 9, 2021 https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/transmission_k_12_schools.html
4. Science Brief: Community Use of Cloth Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2 Updated May 7, 2021 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>

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