



Town of Orleans

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Board of Health

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Advisory: Face Coverings in Public Places

Board of Health Advisory 2021-01

The Orleans Board of Health has determined that it is necessary to issue the following advisory to protect public health.

Whereas, COVID-19 is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease and the spread of the disease from person to person is caused by close or personal contact and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. People can potentially spread the disease even before they experience symptoms; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised individuals to wear masks or other suitable facial covering when indoors to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Whereas, COVID cases, including its variants, are on the rise in Orleans and these cases are involving vaccinated and un-vaccinated individuals.

Whereas, Barnstable County is listed as an area of "Substantial Transmission" by the CDC.

The Board of Health hereby advises:

Masks or cloth face coverings should be worn regardless of vaccination status:

- Whenever indoors on the premises of a business, club, or place of assembly, including but not limited to retail establishments, restaurants, bars, performance venues, social clubs, event spaces, places of religious worship or in municipal buildings.

- Food service establishment customers should only remove face coverings when seated.
- Lodging workers and guests are advised to wear face coverings inside hallways and common areas.
- Customers and employees of personal services, including hair salons and massage/body work facilities.

Exceptions for wearing face masks include situation that may inhibit an individual from wearing a face mask safely. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Those who cannot breathe safely.
- Those who, due to a behavioral health diagnosis are unable to do so.
- Those communicating with people who rely on lip-reading.
- Those who require supplemental oxygen to breathe.

Advisory issued this 19th day of August 2021.

Robert J. Canning
Agent for the Board of Health