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BOARD OF HEALTH

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EMERGENCY ORDER FROM MILFORD BOARD OF HEALTH

EMERGENCY ORDER FOR MANDATORY FACE COVERING IN ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES

PURPOSE OF REGULATION

WHY FACE COVERINGS CAN HELP WITH THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS: The CDC is now recommending people consider wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. There is increasing evidence that pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic carriers can spread the virus.

These new policies come with the vital plea that people do not use the medical-grade masks that are in short supply in hospitals right now. That means one thing: The era of the homemade masks and face coverings is upon us.

Can face coverings prevent the spread of the virus?

The primary benefit of covering your nose and mouth is that you protect others. While there is still much to be learned about the novel coronavirus, it appears that many people who are infected are shedding the virus – through coughs, sneezes, and respiratory droplets – for 48 hours before they start feeling sick. And others who have the virus – up to 25%, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Robert Redfield — may never feel symptoms but may still play a role in transmitting it.

That's why wearing a mask even if you don't feel sick can be a good idea and necessary.

If you cough or sneeze, the mask can catch those respiratory droplets so they don't land on other people or surfaces. "So it's not going to protect you, but it is going to protect your neighbor," says Dr. Daniel Griffin at Columbia University, an expert on infectious diseases. "If your neighbor is wearing a mask and the same thing happens, they're going to protect you. So masks worn properly have the potential to benefit people."

Reference: Is A Homemade Mask Effective? And What's The Best Way To Wear One? April 3, 2020, LAUREL WAMSLEY & ALLISON AUBREY – NPR.ORG

ACTIVE COVID-19 CASE UPDATE: As of April 20, 2020, MDPH has reported 39,643 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts up from 38,077 confirmed cases yesterday. There are 3,179 confirmed cases in Worcester County up from 3,069 cases yesterday. To Date Total Deaths in MA: 1,809.

NOW THEREFORE

Pursuant to the declaration of a public health state of emergency on March 16, 2020, and all other authorizing statutes and regulations, acting by and through its agent authorized under MGL c. 111, §31 we, the Milford Board of Health of the Town of Milford, Massachusetts, hereby order the following:

- 1.) All members of the public aged 5 years of age and older entering any essential business as defined by Governor Baker's Covid-19 Executive Orders, including but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies, home improvement stores and the like must wear a cloth face covering, such as a fabric mask, scarf or bandana, over his or her nose and mouth.
- 2.) Face coverings can be made of household fabrics and materials and should ideally have multiple layers. The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, which should be left for medical professionals and first responders. See this link for information on making a cloth face covering: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
- 3.) All members of the public aged 5 years of age and older entering a restaurant for the purpose of picking up food for take-out must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth.
- 4.) All employees of all essential businesses shall wear a face covering over their mouth and nose when interacting with the public and within six feet of a co-worker.
- 5.) All grocery stores, retail stores and food service establishment staff must wear a face covering. Gloves must be readily available and used as necessary to avoid touching "ready to eat foods". Glove use is not a substitution for frequent hand washing or use of hand sanitizer.
- 6.) Any resident or member of the general public aged 5 years of age and older entering or exiting a residential or commercial building complex of greater than one (1) unit must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth while in common areas and communal spaces and must exercise social distancing in these spaces in accordance with CDC guidelines. See these guidelines at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/>
- 7.) An employee of the retailer shall be designated to ensure that members of the public entering the establishment are wearing a cloth face covering and they may request such person either don a face mask, obtain delivery or curbside service where such alternatives exist, and/or leave the facility.
- 8.) Per the CDC, face coverings should not be placed on young children under 2-years-old, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- 9.) Establishments must increase employee illness surveillance by: 1) Continuing to ask if staff have been exposed to COVID-19, 2) Ensuring employees don't come to work while sick and 3) Taking a daily temperature

reading of employees at the start of each work shift.

Key elements to remember when wearing a face covering include:

It should fit snugly against the side of your face; It should be secured with ties or ear loops; It should have multiple layers of fabric; It should allow for breathing without restriction; Fabric face coverings should be cleaned after each use and should be machine washable and dryer safe; Always remove the mask directly into the laundry or trash and then immediately wash your hands; Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when removing your mask.


Instructions for how to fashion a homemade face covering with no sewing required can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

This emergency order shall be effective beginning Monday, APRIL 27, 2020 at 6:00AM and remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to the Board of Health's judgment, that the Public Health Emergency no longer exists.

To the extent necessary, Board of Health officials shall enforce this Order. Local businesses not adhering to the requirements will face fines of \$100 per incident.



Leonard A. Izzo, Chairman



Kenneth C. Evans, Member



Paul A. Mazzuchelli, Member

Milford Board of Health