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CITY OF EASTHAMPTON

BOARD OF HEALTH

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Official Public Health Advisory of the Board of Health:

We are currently experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases both locally and nationally. The Delta variant can be attributed to this rise in cases as this variant currently accounts for over 80% of the reported cases in the Northeast. Per the CDC, the Delta variant is highly contagious, nearly twice as contagious as previous variants. Some data suggest the Delta variant might cause more severe illness than previous strains in unvaccinated people. Unvaccinated people remain the most significant concern. Although breakthrough infections happen much less often than infections in unvaccinated people, individuals infected with the Delta variant, including fully vaccinated people with breakthrough infections, can transmit it to others. However, vaccinated people appear to be infectious for a shorter period. Previous variants typically produced less virus in the body of infected fully vaccinated people (breakthrough infections) than in unvaccinated people. This is not believed to be the case for the Delta variant.

On July 27th, 2021, the CDC released updated guidance on the need for urgently increasing COVID-19 vaccination coverage and a recommendation for everyone in areas of substantial or high transmission to wear a mask in public indoor places, even if they are fully vaccinated. As of today, August 9th, 2021, transmission is high in both Berkshire and Hampden Counties and substantial in Franklin County. Hampshire County is currently experiencing moderate transmission. The City of Easthampton has experienced an increase in cases locally in the past weeks.

The Board of Health, to be proactive and not wait for Hampshire County to become 'substantial' or 'high,' as we anticipate it will, is advising all persons in the City of Easthampton, over the age of 5, to wear a mask in all public indoor areas, regardless of vaccination status.

Section 1

Except as specified in Section 2 below, all persons in the City of Easthampton, over the age of 5 years old, are advised to wear a mask or face covering over their mouth and nose in the following circumstances:

1. Face coverings are advised at all times when indoors, and in a public location, regardless of vaccination status.

Section 2

The face coverings requirement in Section 1 shall not apply in the following circumstances:

1. Where a person is unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical or disabling condition; provided that a person who declines to wear a mask or face covering because of a medical or disabling condition shall not be required to provide documentation verifying the condition.
2. Where a face covering would impede communication by or with a person who has a hearing impairment or other disability.
3. While seated and eating or drinking.

Existing Mask Requirements

In addition to the above advisory, please note the MA Department of Public Health requires masks in the following settings:

1. Public and private transportation
2. Healthcare facilities
3. Congregate care facilities
4. Emergency shelter programs
5. Houses of Correction, Department of Correction prisons, jails, and other correctional facilities.
6. Health Care and Day Services and Programs operated, licensed, certified, regulated, or funded by the Commonwealth, including the Executive Office of Health and Human Services or one of its agencies.
7. Home health care workers

To view the current CDC Level of Community Transmission map, please visit:

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

Local COVID-19 Vaccine Resources

While breakthrough COVID-19 cases are possible, the COVID-19 vaccine is our best defense against severe illness, hospitalizations, and death.

There are many local, no appointment required, clinics. Please see below for a list of local clinics:

August 2021 Local Vaccine Clinic Schedule

No appointment is necessary however, completing the registration online will save time; <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/northampton>

Easthampton Community Center – Monday, August 16th, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.

12 Clark St.

Big E's, Easthampton- Monday August 16th, 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

11 Union St.

- First Dose Pfizer
- Second Dose Pfizer
- One Dose Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)

<https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/northampton>

Pulaski Park, Northampton - Wednesdays 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

240 Main Street, Northampton

(Severe weather backup location is Memorial Hall 240 Main St, front foyer)

- First Dose Pfizer
- Second Dose Pfizer
- One Dose Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)
- Second Dose Moderna

<https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/northampton>

Northampton Municipal Building - Thursdays 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

City Council Chambers

212 Main Street, Northampton

Building is directly behind City Hall, the same level as the City Hall parking lot.

- First Dose Pfizer
- Second Dose Pfizer
- One Dose Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)
- Second Dose Moderna

<https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/northampton>

Northampton High School - Thursdays 3 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Tent in front of the building

380 Elm Street, Northampton

(Severe weather backup location is Memorial Hall 240 Main St, front foyer)

- First Dose Pfizer
- Second Dose Pfizer
- One Dose Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)
- *Moderna second dose by pre-request only at this site. Contact Northampton Health Dept.*

<https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/northampton>

Information about the Northampton Health Department vaccine clinics:
<https://www.northamptonma.gov/2219/Vaccine-Clinics>

Find a vaccine appointment near you: <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>

Information about the different COVID-19 vaccines: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines#basics>