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BOARD OF HEALTH

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GREAT BARRINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

The Great Barrington Board of Health amends the Public Health Advisory issued on January 13, 2022.

The Board of Health would like to emphasize the importance of public health preventative measures, particularly with gatherings occurring indoors.

Additionally, the Board of Health recognizes that vaccination is seen as vitally important to protect oneself against severe disease, vaccination cannot be viewed as the sole barrier for the community against COVID-19 infection or disease.

Therefore, all residents, visitors, employers, and employees should wear a mask and properly social distance while indoors in public settings, regardless of vaccination status.

This Advisory also includes the recommendation of wearing a tight fitting mask while attending outdoor events where social distancing cannot be maintained.

The following should be considered in one's risk assessment process when making a particular decision about various activities:

1. Increase ventilation for indoor spaces when two or more people are meeting. For those planning events or those who manage indoor public spaces, take the time to evaluate the indoor air quality, HVAC systems, frequency of complete air changes, and overall enhancement of ventilation.
2. Wear a tight fitting, medical grade or N95 Mask when indoors and/ or around immune-compromised individuals.
3. Consider the risks associated with travel or gathering at any given time (community infection rates, visiting with immune compromised individuals, recent immunity from vaccination or infection, etc.).
4. Get a test prior to travel or gathering. Please plan accordingly to receive results prior to travel. At home antigen tests are available over the counter and PCR tests are available

with an appointment at a local testing site. **Free testing is no longer sponsored in Great Barrington by the Stop the Spread initiative. Inquire with your insurance company as to what testing is covered so that you can make informed decisions. If you test positive with an At Home Test, please contact the Health Department for more information. When using at home antigen tests please refer to the expiration date prior to use.

5. Physical distancing (6ft or greater) is still important. It is especially important when in indoor settings and/ or when masks are not worn. Please remember to avoid touching your face and also wash hands frequently.
6. Consider taking measures to improve your well-being, for instance; increase awareness regarding your personal mental health, make healthy food choices, frequent moderate level exercise, be respectful of your circadian rhythm, and consult with your physician to make well informed choices.

Event planners and/ or any organization of large indoor and outdoor gatherings that are open to the public are encouraged to consult with the Health Department to ensure appropriate precautionary measures are implemented.

Signage referencing this advisory can be requested through the Great Barrington Health Department. Should you have any questions or concerns, please follow up with the Great Barrington Health Department or come to our next Board of Health meeting.

This Advisory and the status thereof will be reviewed routinely at Board of Health Meetings.

This Advisory shall take effect immediately.