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## TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

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### BOARD OF HEALTH

December 14, 2021

### GREAT BARRINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

The Great Barrington Board of Health amends the Public Health Advisory issued on September 15, 2021

Public Health Officials are seeing a steady trend of increasing cases and patterns which could be attributed to a seasonal shift of gatherings occurring indoors and in less ventilated spaces. While 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 masks while attending outdoor events where social distancing cannot be maintained.

Please keep the following in mind as we head into a Holiday and Winter Season

1. Increase ventilation in indoor spaces when two or more people are meeting.
2. Wear a medical grade, N95 Mask when indoors and/ or around immune-compromised individuals.
3. Limit travel or gathering. If not possible, limit the size of the gathering.
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. If you test positive with an At Home Test, please contact the Health Department for more information.
5. Social distance and Wash hands frequently.

6. Consider taking measures to improve your well-being, for instance; increase awareness regarding your personal mental health, 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.