

June 27 2022

## **GREAT BARRINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH**

### **COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY**

The Great Barrington Board of Health amends the Public Health Advisory issued on April 8, 2022.

Effective July 1, 2022, folks are encouraged to wear a mask or face covering when indoors if they or someone in the household has a weakened immune system or is at risk for severe disease, because of age, or an underlying medical condition. For more information about what health conditions pose an increased risk for COVID-19, please reference the page linked here: [People with Certain Medical Conditions | CDC](#)

If you are in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 please closely monitor yourself for the onset of COVID-19 symptoms and get tested if symptoms develop. If you have tested positive please follow the quarantine and isolation guidance, which includes wearing a mask in public for 5 more days after isolation or quarantine for the first 5 days, regardless of vaccination status.

For a complete list of where and when masks are required please reference this link: [COVID-19 Mask Requirements | Mass.gov](#)

The Board of Health emphasizes the importance of public health preventative measures, particularly when gathering with large groups of people indoors.

Additionally, the Board of Health recognizes that while 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, the following should be considered in one's risk assessment process when making a particular decision about various activities:

1. When using At- Home Antigen tests, refer to the expiration date prior to use. However, because the expiration date may have been extended beyond what is printed on the box, refer to the manufacturer's website for accurate expiration dates.
2. Increase ventilation for indoor spaces when two or more people are meeting. For those planning events or those who manage indoor public spaces, evaluate the indoor air quality, HVAC systems, frequency of complete air changes, and overall ventilation. We encourage these individuals to generally enhance air quality and ventilation systems whenever possible.
2. Wear a tight - fitting, medical grade or N95 Mask when indoors and/ or around immune-compromised individuals.
3. Consider the current risks associated with travel or gathering (community infection rates, visiting with immune compromised individuals, recent immunity from vaccination or infection, etc.).

4. Consider taking a test prior to travel or gathering, especially if you are experiencing known COVID-19 symptoms. At home antigen tests are available over the counter and PCR tests are available with an appointment at a local testing site. 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, contact your physician or the Health Department for more information.
5. Physical distancing (6ft or greater) is still important, especially when in indoor settings and/ or when masks are not worn. Remember to avoid touching your face and also wash hands frequently.
6. Consider taking measures to improve your well-being, such as; increasing awareness regarding your personal mental health, making healthy food choices, frequently exercising, being respectful of your circadian rhythm, and consulting with your physician to make well informed choices.

Event planners and/ or organizers 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 shall take effect July 1, 2022.