

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT

AMENDED RULE REQUIRING WEARING FACE COVERINGS INDOORS IN PUBLIC SPACES

Section 1. Authority.

This Rule is adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Waitsfield under authority of Act 1, an act relating to temporary municipal rules in response to COVID-19 (2021 Special Session).

Section 2. Purpose.

The purpose of this Rule is to require all individuals to wear face coverings while indoors at locations that are open to the public in order to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public health and safety of the Town of Waitsfield. Certain exceptions to this Rule are identified in Section 4.

Section 3. Requirement to Wear Face Coverings.

All individuals in the Town of Waitsfield shall wear face coverings while indoors at locations that are open to the public. “Face covering” means a medical or nonmedical face covering worn over an individual’s nose and mouth that complies with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In the case of individuals with a medical condition complicated or irritated by a mask or cloth facial covering, a translucent shield or “sneeze guard” is acceptable in lieu of a mask or other cloth facial covering.

Where property or business owners have stricter rules in place for visitors and patrons, those shall still apply.

Section 4. Exceptions.

Face coverings are not required for:

- Children under 2 years
- A person with a disability who cannot wear a face covering or cannot safely wear a face covering for reasons related to the disability
- A person for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the workplace risk assessment
- Any person while eating or drinking inside any establishment that serves food or beverage
- Any person working in or visiting office spaces that require admission by appointment and where occupants are physically separate from the public.
- Any person in a part of a building open to the public that is inaccessible to the public
- Any person working at a retail establishment who is fully shielded behind a plastic or other type of protective shield
- Portions of a theater where the individuals performing have been vaccinated and there is space, a physical barrier or ventilation system that separates them from the general public or audience

Section 5. Other Laws.

This Rule is in addition to all other ordinances and rules of the Town of Waitsfield and all applicable laws of the State of Vermont. All ordinances, rules, or parts of ordinances, rules, resolutions, regulations, or other documents inconsistent with the provisions of this Rule are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 6. Severability.

If any section or provision of this Rule is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such finding shall not invalidate any other part of this Rule.

Section 7. Effective Period.

This rule took effect on December 6, 2021, immediately upon the approval by the Selectboard and remained in effect for a period not to exceed 45 days following its initial adoption. The Selectboard met during the 45-day period in which this initial Rule was in effect and voted to amend this Rule and extend it for an additional 30 days. Thereafter, the Selectboard shall meet at a minimum once every 30 days to reconsider this Rule, at which meeting the Selectboard shall vote either to rescind this Rule or to extend it for an additional 30-day period. The filing of a petition under 24 V.S.A. §§ 1972 and 1973, shall not govern the taking effect of this Rule.

AMENDED by the Selectboard of the Town of Waitsfield at its meeting on this 10th day of January 2022.