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Memorandum

EMD

TO: Eileen M Donoghue, City Manager
FROM: Lisa Golden, RN, MSN, HHS Director
DATE: 2/22/22
SUBJECT: Mask Requirement in City Buildings

Motion Response – C.Rourke – Req. City Mgr. Remove Mask Mandate In City Buildings.

Masks have been required in City of Lowell facilities since Monday, August 16, 2021. Since the implementation of this policy, the Health Department, along with the City Manager's Office, have closely monitored state and federal public health guidance along with local transmission metrics to assess the continued necessity for the policy. Given the significant decline in COVID-19 transmission over recent weeks, along with improved vaccination rates city-wide, we have determined that **masks will no longer be required in City buildings beginning Monday, March 7, 2022.** The timing of this policy change aligns with that of Lowell Public Schools, which has announced that it will lift its mask requirement on the same date.

Recognizing that Massachusetts is a national leader in vaccine acceptance, and in light of recent improvements in COVID-19 indicators, the DPH now advises that a fully vaccinated person should wear a mask or face covering when indoors under the following circumstances: if you have a weakened immune system, if you are at increased risk for severe disease because of your age or an underlying medical condition, if someone in your household has a weakened immune system or is at increased risk for severe disease.

Individuals who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear a face covering or mask when indoors with others to help prevent spreading COVID-19 to other people.

Individuals who have tested positive or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 must follow the CDC isolation and quarantine guidelines which includes wearing a mask in public for 5 more days after leaving isolation or quarantine on day 5, regardless of vaccination status.

All people in Massachusetts (regardless of vaccination status) are required to continue wearing face coverings in certain settings, including on public transportation and in health care facilities. Please see www.mass.gov/maskrules for a complete list of venues where face coverings have remained mandatory since May 29, 2021.