



City of  
**GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**



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**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**ROXANN WEDEGARTNER**

Mayor

City Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301  
Phone 413-772-1560 • Fax 413-772-1519  
Mayor@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

**Media Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Danielle Letourneau, Chief of Staff**

(413) 772-1560 Office of the Mayor

(413) 772-1581 direct

Dani.letourneau@greenfield-ma.gov

**Mayor Wedegartner and Greenfield Board of Health Issue Mask Order**

GREENFIELD – Following a vote of the Greenfield Board of Health meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021, Mayor Roxann Wedegartner has issued a new mask order to go into effect on Monday, September 20, 2021. This is following a recent substantial rise in COVID-19 cases over the last few weeks, particularly in September. The order states that all people must wear a face mask when indoors in public spaces and private business within the City of Greenfield, and recommends wearing a mask outdoors where a gathering size exceeds 20 people when social distancing is not possible. Many current cases came from outdoor events, including weddings.

- This order applies to anyone over the age of 5, including all workers and customers of businesses regardless of vaccination status.
- By State order residents are also already required to wear a mask or face covering at all times when using any means of transportation service or public mass transit.
- The Mayor will review this order every 30 days, using data collected through the Health Department's contact tracing and positive case data.
- The City of Greenfield joins several other communities in Western Massachusetts, including Amherst, Easthampton, and Hadley, as well Franklin County towns of Gill and Sunderland.

“The rapid increase in COVID-19 cases in August and especially in September has caused us to develop this city requirement to wear masks indoors in public spaces. Cases in both those months far surpassed cases in August and September of last year. It is alarming. However, we can do one thing for sure to protect ourselves and others when out and about and that is to wear a mask. I also strongly encourage people to wear masks outdoors when in large crowds and events,” said Mayor Wedegartner.

Health Director Jennifer Hoffman says, "Wearing masks is one of the most important steps in slowing the spread of COVID-19, besides getting vaccinated. Although we are weary and have mask fatigue, until we have a >70% herd immunity in Franklin County, we need to be vigilant and wear masks, wash our hands, and maintain social distancing".

The COVID-19 vaccines are the best protection against the virus and its variants, and the Mayor urges every resident who has not done so, to get a vaccine. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone 12 years of age and older get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they can. According to the CDC, as of September 7, 2021, [more than 176 million people](#) in the United States had been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. During the same time, CDC received reports from 49 U.S. states and territories of 14,115 patients with COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough infection who were hospitalized or died.

The City of Greenfield hosted vaccine clinics in spring of 2021, administering 17,487 doses over 51 clinic days. Vaccine locations in Greenfield are listed on the City’s [COVID-19 Information and Resources Page](#). Current local positive cases are also listed on that page and updated frequently.