



West Hartford Reaches ‘Red Zone’ Threshold and Implements A Local Universal Indoor Mask Mandate

Mayor Shari Cantor and Town Manager Matt Hart announced today that the Town of West Hartford will impose a local universal indoor mask mandate effective at 12:00 noon on August 20, 2021. The order shall remain in effect until further notice.

On August 13, town officials announced that if West Hartford reached high community transmission level, or “red zone,” as defined by the State Department of Public Health as an average daily case rate of 15 or more per 100,000 people, the Town would require all individuals regardless of their vaccination status to wear a mask when indoors.

The West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District reported that West Hartford has now exceeded that threshold with 16.7 cases per 100,000 population.

Even though West Hartford has one of the highest vaccination rates in the state, the Delta variant is so contagious that extra measures are needed to slow the transmission and to protect the most vulnerable.

Under the Governor’s Executive Order No. 13A order issued on August 5, 2021, the Town Manager, as the Town’s chief executive officer, has the sole authority to issue a municipal mask mandate in West Hartford. Town Manager Matt Hart said the decision to issue the mask mandate was made in consultation with public health and safety officials.

West Hartford’s indoor mask mandate will require all persons to wear a mask in any indoor place in town. The mandate shall not apply to any residential dwelling and includes the following exceptions to the requirement to wear a mask:

- Persons more than 6’ apart;
- Persons with a medical condition, behavioral condition, or disability that prevents them from wearing a mask, or anyone under the age of 2 years; and
- Persons eating and drinking.

West Hartford joins other state municipalities in making masks mandatory. Those cities and towns include Bloomfield, Bridgeport, Danbury, East Windsor, Easton, Fairfield, Hartford, Manchester, New Haven, Norwalk, South Windsor, Stamford, and Westport. All of Connecticut’s counties are now in the ‘red zone.’ Under the Governor’s executive order, the Town has the authority to enforce the mandate, including the issuance of citations.

“Our approach has been, and continues to be, education first, enforcement second. We have reached out to our community over the past few weeks to alert them of the possibility of a local indoor mask mandate. We will continue to take proactive steps to make sure that our businesses, restaurants, places of worship, schools, grocery stores, and long-term care facilities are aware of this new requirement,” said Hart.

“We all want to keep our communities safe while keeping schools, towns, and businesses open,” said Mayor Shari Cantor. “Please, if you have not been vaccinated, do so to protect yourself, your family and your community. Vaccines are safe, free and easier than ever to obtain.”