

Announcement from Hamilton Board of Health on February 8, 2022

As a result of the alarming rise in Covid-19 positive cases, positivity rates, hospitalizations, and deaths due to the highly transmissible Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the Hamilton Board of Health on December 22, 2021 issued an Order requiring face masks in indoor public spaces to help control the spread of the disease. Now, as a result of the fact that Hamilton residents have achieved such high vaccination rates, combined with the dramatic decrease in recent wastewater treatment system virus counts, positive cases, positivity rates, and hospitalizations, the Board voted to end that mask Order on this date.

We thank our residents for their diligent efforts to get fully vaccinated and our seniors for getting their booster shots. Hamilton has attained a town-wide average of 86% of its residents fully vaccinated and a town-wide average of 80 to 90% of its seniors receiving booster shots. Congratulations!

Although we have rescinded the mask mandate, we continue to strongly encourage – especially for our seniors and immunocompromised residents -- the wearing of masks indoors in public spaces, including schools. We recognize that some of our residents are at higher risk of serious health issues from Covid-19 and so, in order for those persons to feel safer in public, we have a limited number of free KN95 masks available for pick up from the Council on Aging at 299 Bay Road. Please speak with a COA staff member.

We also encourage the use of Covid testing, including rapid testing, whenever residents have any symptoms, or are about to visit with vulnerable persons.

- Rapid tests are available at cost from the town <https://epay.cityhallsystems.com/selection>, and we plan in the next week to offer them free to residents who need them.
- Tests are also available for free from the federal government at <https://www.covidtests.gov/>, and are eligible for reimbursement from your insurance company, up to 8 tests per person, per month.

Unfortunately, vaccinations alone will not keep infections at a low level. Voluntary, appropriate masking and testing remain powerful tools in helping to control and prevent spread of coronavirus. We appreciate your continued cooperation in caring for each other during this unprecedented time.

Thank you,
Hamilton Board of Health