

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021 - 1

WHEREAS, there exists a global pandemic of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has resulted in the spread of infections throughout the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont declared a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency throughout the State pursuant to sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, on several occasions since March 10, 2020, acting within his authority pursuant to sections 19a-131 and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes as well as Special Acts 21-2, 21-4 and 21-5 of the General Assembly, Governor Lamont renewed the declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies; and

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2021, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 13A, which permits municipalities to issue orders pursuant to section 28-8a of the Connecticut General Statutes requiring masks or face coverings in indoor settings regardless of vaccination status; and

WHEREAS, the Delta variant of COVID-19, which is highly contagious and spreads faster than any other variant of COVID-19, is now the dominant variant of COVID-19 in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, based on reporting from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (“CT-DPH”), Hartford County is in the “High Transmission” category of COVID-19 and West Hartford is now in the “red zone,” defined by CT-DPH as more than 15 positive cases per 100,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all people, including those who have been vaccinated, wear masks indoors in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, universal indoor masking is necessary to meet the civil preparedness and public health emergencies caused by the spread of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW W. HART, Town Manager of the Town of West Hartford, by virtue of the authority vested in me by order of Governor Ned Lamont, section 8 of chapter III of the Town Charter, and section 28-8a of the General Statutes, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

Section 1. Any person in an indoor public place in West Hartford who does not maintain a safe social distance of approximately six feet from every other person shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face covering.

Section 2. Nothing in this order shall require the use of a mask or cloth face covering by anyone for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition, behavioral condition, or disability, or anyone under the age of 2 years. Any person who declines to wear a mask or face covering because of a medical condition, behavioral condition, or disability shall be exempt from this order, but only if such person provides written documentation that the person is qualified for the exemption from a licensed or certified medical provider, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, social worker, or behavior analyst, the Department of Developmental Services or other state agency that provides or supports services for people with emotional, intellectual or physical disabilities, or a person authorized by any such agency. Such documentation shall not be required to name or describe the condition that qualifies the person for the exemption.

Section 3. Nothing in this order shall require the use of a mask or cloth face covering by anyone while eating or drinking.

Section 4. This order shall not apply to any residential dwelling.

This Order shall take effect at 12:00 p.m. on August 20, 2021.

Dated at West Hartford, this 19th day of August in the year 2021.



Matthew W. Hart
Town Manager