



**TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING  
Meeting Minutes**

**BOARD/COMMITTEE:** Board of Health

**MEETING DATE:** 2/24/22

**TIME:** 8:30PM

**PLACE:** This meeting was held virtually

**Members Present:** Marie Cannon (MC), Bryan Lynch (BL), Lori Lotterman (LL)

**Members Absent:**

**Other Attendees:** Jim Garreffo (JG)

**Discussion:** To consider removing the emergency regulations to wear masks.

On 1/9/21 the Board of Health (Board) instituted an emergency regulation requiring the wearing of face coverings (masks) in all indoor public spaces in response to the increased number of COVID-19 cases seen throughout the country and locally. The Board also heard from a business owner who felt a local regulation would help enforcement in their facility. The regulation took effect on 1/21/22.

Since that time, several communities have lifted their mask mandates and the Department of Early and Secondary Education (DESE) has announced it will allow its requirement for face coverings in schools to expire on 2/28/22.

There were 'several' attendees joining the zoom meeting to listen in to the Board's discussion.

In light of the drop in cases in Massachusetts and in Boxborough, the premise of the meeting was to respond to the recent announcement from the DESE, an advisory from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) (dated 2/15/22) and the notice by the Acton Boxborough Regional School District that its plans to allow masks as optional in school as of February 28, 2022, other school districts have done the same.

JG provided the Board information on the current cases in Boxborough and on the vaccination rate in the community. He also explained the trends Statewide were going in the right direction.

The attendees were invited to make additional comment after the Board of Health's discussion, and one attendee cited support for lifting the mask mandate on behalf of school-age children.

MC proposed a motion to lift of the emergency regulation requiring the wearing face coverings and replace it with a recommendation for wearing face coverings in accordance with DESE and MDPH guidance and advisory which was seconded by LL. BL abstained, and noted that he was concerned that lifting the mandate may be too soon. MC and LL voted to rescind the emergency regulation, and replace it with a recommendation as noted above, and there was one abstention. The regulation is rescinded as of 2/25/22. The current MDPH advisory is included in the minutes of this meeting.

The Board noted that businesses in Boxborough may impose mask requirements at their locations, at their own discretion but are not required to do so.

DRAFT