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TOWN OF WHATELY MASSACHUSETTS

SELECTBOARD

NOVEMBER 18, 2020

DIRECTIVE ON FACE COVERINGS FOR TOWN EMPLOYEES

Background: On November 2, 2020, Governor Baker signed a revised order that requires all persons to wear face-coverings in all public places, even where they are able to maintain 6 feet of distance from others. Importantly, the Order still allows for an exception for residents and employees who cannot wear a face-covering due to a medical or disabling condition, where the employee submits proof of such a condition. The Order also includes several other exceptions.

Purpose: The purpose of this Directive is (1) to provide clarification as to how the Selectboard interprets the face covering Order adopted by Governor Baker on November 2, 2020, and (2) to protect the health and safety of employees and residents. The Order has particular significance for public employees whose workspace is oftentimes located in public locations.

Directive: All Town of Whately Employees shall wear a face covering at all times, in all public locations and when entering onto private property when acting in an official capacity for the Town of Whately, unless an exception listed below applies.

For the purposes of this directive, a public location is defined as all public streets and sidewalks, public parking lots, public buildings, public parks, public properties, establishments open to the public and any other location that is open to the public.

Exceptions:

- (1) Employees who have a medical or other disabling condition and satisfactory proof of such condition has been submitted to their immediate supervisor are not required to wear a face covering, but shall be required to take other precautions (e.g. wearing a face shield or mandatory social distancing).
- (2) Employees may remove their face covering when necessary to communicate by or with a person who has a hearing impairment or other disability.

- (3) Employees whose workspace, although in a public building, is closed to the public may remove their face coverings only if they are working alone in their own workspaces with the door closed.
- (4) Employees who are driving an enclosed vehicle or other type of equipment with an enclosed cab alone (i.e. with no passengers)

This Directive is effective immediately and in effect until rescinded by vote of the Selectboard.