

**TOWN OF RUTLAND**  
**COVID-19 EMERGENCY ORDER**  
**REGARDING THE WEARING FACE COVERINGS OR FACE SHIELDS**

**RECITALS AND FINDINGS**

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of COVID-19 novel coronavirus and to help prevent people who may unknowingly have the virus from transmitting it to others;

WHEREAS, the Vermont Department of Health “recommends that all Vermonters wear cloth face coverings when outside of the home to help slow the spread of COVID-19”;

WHEREAS, ¶7(f) of the Amended and Restated Executive Order 01-20 issued by Governor Phil Scott on June 15, 2020 encourages all Vermonters “to wear facial coverings over their nose and mouth any time they are interacting with others from outside their households, especially in congregate settings where it is not possible to maintain physical distancing;

WHEREAS, ¶7(f) of this Amended and Restated Executive Order also states “Businesses and non-profit and government entities may require customers or clients to wear masks. The legislative body of each municipality may enact more strict local requirements regarding mask use than those set forth herein”;

WHEREAS, ¶7(f) of the Amended and Restated Executive Order therefore authorizes the Rutland Town Selectboard to issue an Emergency Order to require the wearing of facial covering when in municipal building and business establishments open to the public;

WHEREAS, 24 V.S.A. §2291(14) authorizes the Rutland Town Selectboard to define what constitutes a public nuisance, and to provide procedures and take action for its abatement as the public health, safety or welfare may require;

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Amended and Restated Executive Order 01-20 finds COVID-19 constitutes a serious threat to those who are elderly or who already have severe underlying health conditions;

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Amended and Restated Executive Order 01-20 finds that Vermont has experienced community transmission of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Rutland Town Selectboard finds that COVID-19 remains a present health threat to residents of, and visitors to, the Town of Rutland, as well as a significant threat to vulnerable populations and thereby constitutes a public nuisance;

WHEREAS, the Rutland Town Selectboard finds that requiring the wearing of face coverings will help mitigate and/or abate the transmission of this COVID-19 public nuisance;

WHEREAS, the Rutland Town Selectboard finds that for anyone with a medical condition that is complicated or irritated by a facial covering over their nose and mouth, or anyone with difficulty breathing, or anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, a face shield is the appropriate alternative; .and

WHEREAS, the Rutland Town Selectboard finds that wearing a face covering is an important act of safety and empathy that those in the Town of Rutland can do in an effort to protect others from a COVID-19 infection that may be unknowingly carried.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Rutland Town of Rutland Selectboard hereby issues the following COVID-19 Emergency Order:

**WEARING FACE COVERINGS OR FACE SHIELDS REQUIRED  
INSIDE ESTABLISHMENTS**

**EFFECTIVE JULY 22, 2020:**

1. Any person, whether an employee, a customer, or a visitor who enters a public establishment located in the Town of Rutland that invites the public into their premises for the purpose of receiving services, purchasing products, or otherwise conducting business, shall wear a face covering over their nose and mouth or a face shield while inside the establishment and while in the presence of others.
2. All establishments located in the Town of Rutland that invite the public into their premises for the purpose of receiving services, purchasing products or otherwise transacting business, shall require both staff and customers (or visitors) to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth or a face shield while inside the establishment.
3. Each establishment in the Town of Rutland subject of ¶2 above shall post signage at the entrance and at other appropriate locations stating that customers (or visitors) are required to wear face covering over their nose and mouth or face shields pursuant to this Emergency Order of the Rutland Town Selectboard. Other locations can be alternative entrances (back doors, etc.) or at transaction locations such as registers. The posting of such signage shall occur no later than July 29, 2020.
4. While inside a municipal building of the Town of Rutland, all employees of the Town of Rutland and all visitors shall wear a face covering over their nose and mouth or a face shield.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

- A. Paragraphs ¶¶ 1, 2, & 4 above shall NOT apply to children under two (2) years of age.
- B. Face coverings or face shields are not required inside dining establishments once seating or dining has commenced, or when dining at such establishments takes place outside.

**DURATION:**

This Emergency Order shall remain in effect until the Rutland Town Selectboard amends, rescinds, or suspends this Emergency Order, or until the Governor declares an end to the COVID-19 State of Emergency in Vermont, whichever occurs first.

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