



TOWN OF PLAINFIELD
ORDINANCE 2020-01
RELATIVE TO FACE COVERINGS

The Town of Plainfield, NH's Board of Selectmen (Selectboard), hereby adopts the following ordinance relative to face coverings during a period of a public health pandemic/state of emergency as declared by the Governor of the State of New Hampshire.

Whereas:

RSA 31:39 authorizes the Town to make by laws pertaining to carrying out the prudential affairs of the town;

RSA 41:8 authorizes the Selectboard to manage the prudential affairs of the town;

RSA 147:1 specifically authorizes towns to make regulations for the prevention and removal of nuisances, and such other regulations relating to the public health as in their judgment the health and safety of the people require, which shall take effect when approved by the selectmen;

INFECTIOUS DISEASES are caused by germs, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Some diseases can be spread from person to person very easily through respiratory droplets. Public Health Officials have determined that it is possible for an infected individual to transmit certain diseases without exhibiting any symptoms. One of the best means of slowing the spread of diseases is through minimizing close personal contact with individuals in a public environment (known as physical distancing), covering your mouth and nose by wearing a face covering and the use of proper hygiene (such as hand washing and sanitizing). The wearer should prevent the spread of disease by not touching their face, nose, or eyes with unwashed hands and not touching the outside of the face covering at all times. Lastly, individuals shall employ physical distancing by keeping at least six feet between themselves and others to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets.

NOW, THEREFORE,

The Plainfield Selectboard hereby adopts this Emergency Public Health Order as follows:

1. Employees of all businesses shall wear a face covering over their mouth and nose when interacting with the public and whenever they are within six feet of a co-worker or a customer.
2. Members of the public entering any business, including any outdoor area where business of any sort is conducted (except as stipulated in Item #3), work site, or government building must wear a face covering, as defined by the Center for Disease Control, over their nose and mouth.
3. Members of the public entering a restaurant for the purpose of picking up food for takeout or any other purpose must wear a face covering over their mouth and nose. Members of the public dining indoors or outdoors at a restaurant may remove face covering while seated at their table but must wear a mask when entering or leaving the dining area or visiting the bathroom.
4. Members of the public utilizing sidewalks and other pedestrian public ways, or public recreational lands, are strongly encouraged - but not required - to wear a face covering when there is a likelihood of coming into contact with others for a sustained period of time and physical distancing of at least six feet may not be possible. Where there are groups larger than 15 people, face coverings will be required when participating in a gathering on public property.
5. Notwithstanding the above this order does not require children under 5 years of age to wear face covering (parents should make their own judgment). For children between the ages of 2-5 face coverings are recommended. Face covering is not recommended for children less than 2 years of age.
6. A face covering is also not required to be worn by any person who can show that a medical professional has advised them that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to them for health-related reasons. However, in these cases, special effort should be taken to maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals.
7. Penalties for non-compliance with this ordinance will be issued by the Plainfield Police Department or the Town's Health Officer as follows: 1st offense - a written warning, 2nd offense - a \$50 fine, 3rd offense and subsequent - a \$100 fine.

This order shall be effective immediately and shall continue in effect until rescinded by action of the Plainfield Selectboard.

Adopted on this day: August 26th, 2020

By the Plainfield, NH Selectboard:

Robert Taylor- Board Chair

Eric Brann

Ron Eberhardt