



TOWN OF HOPKINTON
18 Main Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748

COVID-19 Updates & Precautions **December 23, 2021 update**

Previous updates and additional information and resources can be found here:

<https://coronavirus-hopkintonma.hub.arcgis.com/>

Hopkinton continues to see an uptick in the number of positive cases, reporting over 100 new active cases within the past 48 hours.

For the first time since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, Hopkinton has over 225 active cases. Sadly, this trend is not unique to Hopkinton, as we are seeing cases surge across MetroWest, Massachusetts, and across the Country.

During this time, our local metric reporting data may lag, as we work to ensure accurate reporting. As such, you may see a delay in new metrics being updated on [Hopkinton's Community Impact Dashboard](#). However, the Commonwealth's COVID-19 Interactive Dashboard is another valuable resource to review rates and trends: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting# covid-19-interactive-data-dashboard->

Hopkinton moves to remote only public meetings - NEW INFO

Due to the recent surge in Covid cases, effective immediately, all Town board and committee meetings must be held remotely, with no in-person attendance by board members or the public. You can find public meetings posted on Hopkinton's Web Meeting Calendar which can be found on the [Town's website homepage](#), scrolling down below the "Welcome to Hopkinton" message.

The need for remote meetings will continue to be reviewed, and another notice will be distributed if the policy changes.

Mask Advisory for Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Residents - NEW INFO

Effective December 21, 2021: In response to the spread of the Delta variant and the emerging Omicron variant, the Department of Public Health now advises that all residents, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask or face covering when indoors (and not in your own home). The DPH particularly urges this recommendation if you have a weakened immune system, or if you are at increased risk for severe disease because of your age or an underlying medical condition, or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated. More info here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements>

Hopkinton Public Schools - REMINDER

On Thursday evening, December 16, 2021, the Hopkinton School Committee voted 3-2 to reinstitute the mask mandate at the High School starting on Friday, December 17, 2021. All students are required to be masked in the public schools at this time.

Mask Policy re-instituted at town buildings - REMINDER

Effective Wednesday, 12/15/21, the Town of Hopkinton implemented the following policy:

All employees and visitors inside the municipal offices will be required to wear face coverings. Employees can remove their face coverings at their desk and in their immediate work area. In public areas, away from their desk, the expectation is that everyone will wear a face covering. When two or more employees are in the same municipal vehicle, face coverings will also be required.

Covid [breakthrough] cases among fully vaccinated individuals in Massachusetts - REMINDER

On Monday December 20, 2021, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health released a review of breakthrough COVID19 cases which shows that nearly 97% of breakthrough cases among fully vaccinated individuals did not result in death or hospitalization. The data is clear - the vaccine is effective.

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/32e2epI>

See the data: <http://bit.ly/32bxvcR>

Holiday gatherings & travel - REMINDER

Holiday traditions are important for families and children. There are several ways to enjoy holiday traditions and protect your health. Because many generations tend to gather to celebrate holidays, the best way to minimize COVID-19 risk and keep your family and friends safer is to get vaccinated if you're eligible.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Upcoming Holidays - REMINDER

Hopkinton Town Hall and municipal offices will be closed on Friday December 24, and Friday December 31, in observance of the Holidays.

Navigating the Season; a note from Hopkinton Youth and Family Services

Navigating the holiday season this year may reveal that you or your loved ones are experiencing challenges with mental health. We at Hopkinton Youth & Family Services note that many of us are carrying difficult feelings or experiences at this time of year, alongside all the happiness that is hoped for or seemingly experienced all around us. [Click here for more information](#)

SMOC Fuel Assistance

Applications are currently being accepted for the home heating fuel assistance program through SMOC (South Middlesex Opportunity Council). [Click here for more information](#)

CDC Recommends Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 5 to 11 Years

[Click here for more information](#)

Vaccine info - where & how

<https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>

Find a location using <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>

Everyone aged 18 or older who received Pfizer or Moderna at least 6 months ago or Johnson & Johnson at least 2 months ago can get any booster. [Click here for more information](#)

Ages 16-17 are now also available to get a Pfizer booster.

More info on the Covid-19 Vaccine booster shots from the CDC can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

Testing - where & how

<https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test>

Covid Prevention & Treatment

Many of the things you do to help prevent colds and the flu can help protect you against other respiratory viruses, including COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean things that are frequently touched (like doorknobs and countertops) with household cleaning spray or wipes.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your inner elbow, not your hands.
- Stay home if you are sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Utilize a face covering when warranted.
- Get vaccinated.

See more info from Mass.gov here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-prevention-and-treatment>

State of Emergency is lifted as of June 15, 2021

On May 28th, Governor Baker announced the State of Emergency would be lifted as of June 15. More info here: <https://www.mass.gov/news/governor-baker-issues-order-rescinding-covid-19-restrictions-on-may-29-and-terminating-state-of-emergency-effective-june-15>

Hopkinton also posts frequently on social media. Our Twitter is the best place to keep up with all happenings Hopkinton. You don't need an account to see our twitter feed:

<https://twitter.com/HopkintonMA>

Complete list of Emergency Orders and Guidance from Mass.gov

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency>