

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES & GUIDANCE



URGENT UPDATE – JANUARY 5, 2021

I MASK UP FOR our safety



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It's frustrating to wear masks everywhere, but I understand why it's needed. We wear our masks because you just never know who is infected. I'd rather take precautions.

– Yariliz Vega,
WHA Resident,
Lakeside Apartments

WE ARE IN THIS
TOGETHER.



ARE YOU MASKING UP?

The holidays are over and while vaccine distribution has started to roll out around the country, the aftermath of family gatherings for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's celebrations are shattering worldwide records, overwhelming hospitals, and taking the lives of loved ones across the globe.

It will continue to get worse, but you can help. The easiest way to slow and stop the spread of COVID-19 is to **WEAR A MASK.**

COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets. Respiratory droplets travel into the air when you cough, sneeze, talk, shout, or sing. These droplets can then land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby, or they may breathe these droplets in from the air.

Masks are a simple barrier to help prevent your respiratory droplets from reaching others. Studies show that masks reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth.

You should wear a mask at all times, even if you do not feel sick. Several studies have found that both people with COVID-19 who never develop symptoms (asymptomatic) AND those who are not yet showing symptoms (pre-symptomatic) can still spread the virus to other people.

If that's not enough to convince you, understand that wearing a mask is the law. In Massachusetts, Governor Baker issued an Order effective November 6, 2020 requiring masks **in all public places, at all times, whether indoors or outdoors, even when socially distanced.**

REMEMBER: MASKS MUST BE WORN ON ALL WHA PROPERTIES, ANY TIME YOU OR YOUR GUESTS ARE OUTSIDE OF YOUR UNIT – THIS IS MANDATORY.

I MASK UP FOR our elders



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It's a partnership. We need to work together to stay safe. I live in an elderly building; many of us have pre-existing conditions. We all need to adapt.

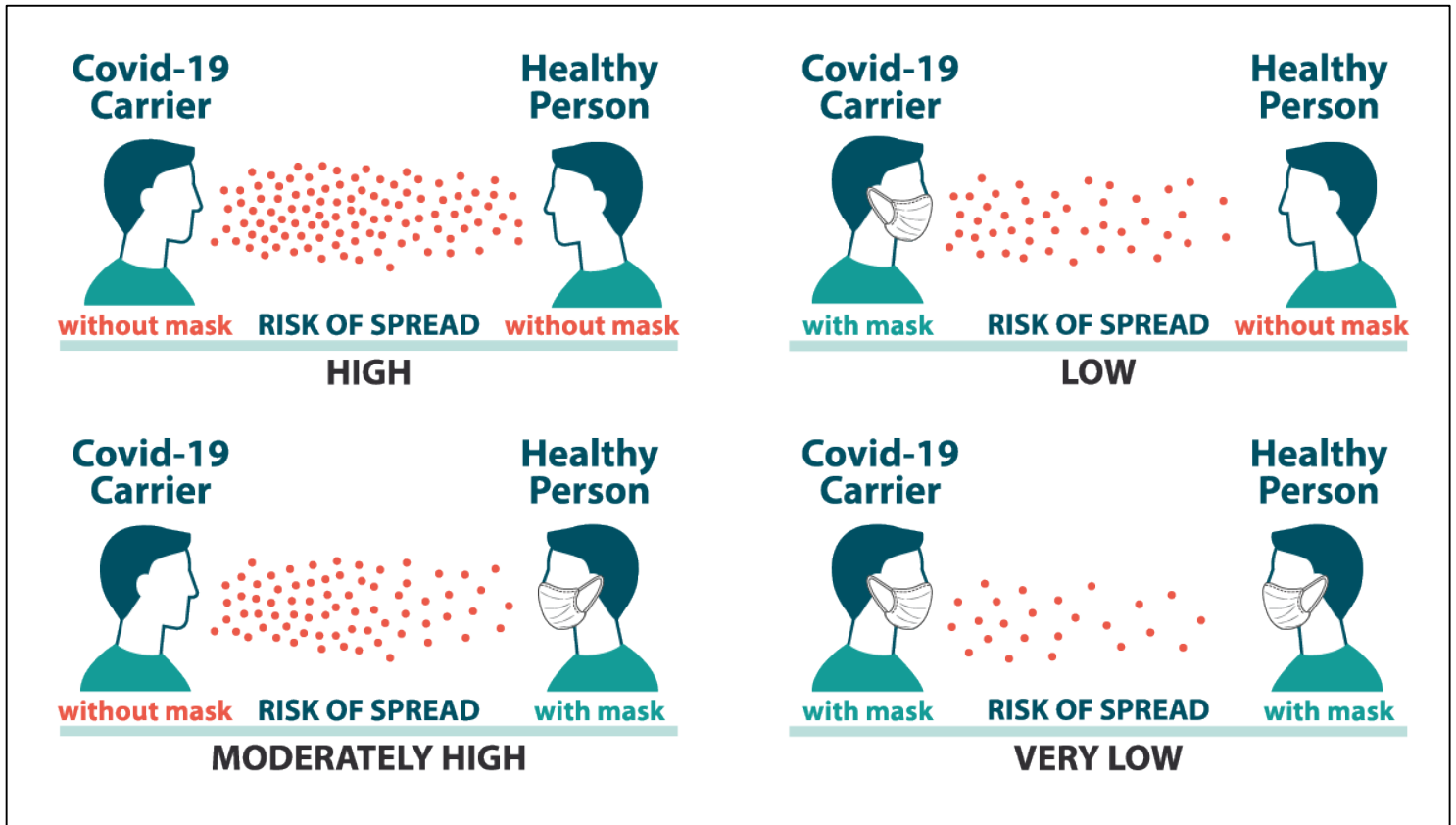
– Joyce Waters,
WHA Resident Leader,
Elm Park Tower

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TOGETHER.



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Image: <https://lompcovmc.com/blog/124-healthy-living/1406-wearing-a-mask-helps-fight-the-spread-of-coronavirus>



THE NUMBERS

- **In Massachusetts:** As of January 3rd, there were **79,261 active cases**, with 2,291 people hospitalized and 416 in ICU.
- **In Worcester:** Currently, only 15 of the 75 beds in the DCU field hospital remain open. From December 24th through December 31st, **772 new cases were diagnosed in Worcester** and to date, 329 city residents have died from the virus.
- **At our properties:** **This weekend the WHA lost its 6th resident to the virus.** We currently have 29 residents positive for the virus, with 5 more under quarantine pending results. Please assume everyone around you is infected and **wear a mask!**

RESOURCES

- **Need a COVID test?** Click here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>; or here: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>.
- **Need information?** Call the City of Worcester COVID-19 hotline at 508-799-1019, open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Albanian.
- **Infected or exposed? Need a mask?** Call your Property Manager or Resident Services at 508-635-3306 for resources to help you quarantine safely.
- **Other resources:** Text WHACOVID to 67076 for text alerts or visit our website: <http://www.worcesterha.org/covid19.html>.