

## LATEST UPDATE – MAY 28, 2021

After a year and a half of living through a pandemic, we are finally beginning to see a light at the end of this long tunnel. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the CDC announced new guidance outlining that **fully-vaccinated individuals no longer had to wear masks indoors**, except in hospitals, on public transportation, and in other specified places. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Governor Baker announced that **effective May 29<sup>th</sup>**,

- All industry restrictions in Massachusetts will be lifted;
- Capacity limits will increase to 100%;
- Gathering limits will be rescinded; and
- Fully-vaccinated individuals will no longer need to wear a mask or social distance indoors or outdoors except in certain situations.

**Non-vaccinated individuals are advised to continue wearing face masks and to continue distancing in most settings.** Masks will still be mandatory for **everyone** (vaccinated or not) on public and private transportation, including rideshares, livery (such as Uber or Lyft), taxis, ferries, MBTA buses and trains, Commuter Rail trains, at transportation stations, in healthcare facilities, and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings, as well as indoors for staff and students of K-12 schools and early education providers.

However, this latest guidance relies on the honor system - a hope and trust that unvaccinated individuals will continue masking and taking precautions, even though they are not required to show proof of vaccination. While as humans, we all hope that others will be responsible, accountable, honest, and respectful, we know it unfortunately doesn't always work out that way.

Massachusetts leads the nation in vaccinating residents, with 75% of adults receiving at least one dose. 3.2 million Massachusetts residents are now fully-vaccinated. New cases have dropped by 89% since January 8<sup>th</sup> and hospitalizations are down 88% since January 1<sup>st</sup>. **The vaccines are working!**

Governor Baker also noted that businesses can set their own requirements. **Please carefully read the next page to understand what is changing at the Worcester Housing Authority.**



## UPDATES

- WHA offices will remain closed to the public, except by appointment (Property Management and Family & Resident Services). If you need to speak to someone, call the appropriate office to set up an appointment. WHA staff are able to meet by telephone or virtual conference for everyone's safety.
- Community rooms will remain closed, except for scheduled and pre-organized events in order to maintain safe social distancing and appropriate capacity.
- For everyone's safety, Maintenance and Property Management staff will continue to wear masks when entering resident units, whether they are vaccinated or not.

## VACCINATED?

- Fully vaccinated people can remove their masks **both inside and outside** of WHA buildings.
- If you've been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, or have traveled outside of the state, **you are no longer required to quarantine or get tested** for COVID-19 unless you have symptoms.
- The virus is not gone. **Be safe, be smart.** Wash your hands. Don't touch your face. Clean and disinfect your spaces. Maintain social distance whenever possible.

## UNVACCINATED?

- Unvaccinated persons **must continue to wear masks and social distance at all times in public areas of WHA buildings**, such as lobbies, elevators, hallways, community rooms, and laundry rooms.
- Unvaccinated persons can remove their masks when **outside** of WHA buildings, except when social distancing is not possible.
- You are at high risk for contracting COVID-19 and spreading it to others. **Be personally accountable.** The virus is not gone. Wash your hands. Don't touch your face. Clean and disinfect your spaces.

## RESOURCES

- **Want a COVID vaccine?** Click here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-locations>.
- **Need a COVID test?** Click here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test>.
- **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>.