

TRI-TOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Lee - Lenox – Stockbridge

DATE: April 13, 2020

TO: TTHD Community at Large/Permitted Retailers

FROM: James J. Wilusz, RS, Executive Director

CC: TTBoH, CAO, Stockbridge Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen

RE: Massachusetts New Advisory Regarding Face Coverings and Cloth Masks

Dear Community,

I hope all of you are healthy and well during these trying times. We want all of you to know we are working very hard to combat COVID-19, and we appreciate all you have done. Together we **WILL** defeat this.

Health Departments have been receiving many inquiries over the past couple of weeks about the general public, essential employees, and others masking in public to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and last week the state issued the attached advisory. It can be found here at: <https://www.mass.gov/news/advisory-regarding-face-coverings-and-cloth-masks>

Grocery store employees, food handlers, public health and safety employees and other essential workers are vital to our community and are risking their health and safety every day to ensure that critical infrastructure services can be accessed by the general public. For that we say **THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU** for all that you are doing for our communities!!!!

However, there are times when practicing social distancing cannot happen due to obvious reasons and therefore, we are endorsing the new state advisory for people to mask while out in the public if possible. Masking is important but we should also still be practicing universal and preventative measures including:

- frequent washing of hands with soap for 20 seconds.
- avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth (face).
- cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze (preferably with a tissue that gets disposed of immediately).
- stay home if you are sick.
- clean and sanitize touch surfaces regularly; and
- maintain social distancing measures whenever possible.
- Follow all COVID-19 advisories.

We understand that trying to find masks during this unprecedented time may be challenging but there are many options, including making homemade cloth ones by visiting: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>. Other options may include visiting Carr Hardware at www.carrhardware.com and according to the Berkshire Eagle article last week a Housatonic Company is making them for purchase at <https://petitpilou.com/> and of course www.Amazon.com. There may be others not listed here.

Tri-Town Health does not support or endorse retailers listed here, but rather an attempt to offer resources to be successful with the state advisory. Be Safe, Be Healthy, and Be Well.

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