



**CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Department of Health & Human Services**  
**Division of Public Health**

Matilde Castiel, MD  
Health & Human Services  
Commissioner

Karyn E. Clark  
Public Health  
Director

**EMERGENCY REGULATION REQUIRING EMPLOYERS**  
**TO REPORT POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES IN THE WORKPLACE**  
**IN THE CITY OF WORCESTER**

WHEREAS, the state-wide COVID-19 State of Emergency ended on June 15, 2021, which also ended the Commonwealth's mandatory reporting requirement for employers to notify the local Board of Health when the employer learned of employees testing positive for the Coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the city of Worcester has had 25,228 positive cases of COVID-19 as of September 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the first documented sequence for B.1.6172 India [Delta variant] of a Worcester resident was first recorded on May 3, 2021 at UMass Memorial; and

WHEREAS, the Delta variant is more contagious than the original COVID-19 virus and has been proven to infect fully vaccinated individuals, predominantly asymptotically, which results in vaccinated individuals being "silent spreaders," greatly contributing to the increase in COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, month-over-month case counts increased by 202% from June to July, and 189% from July to August; and

WHEREAS; in July, Worcester positive cases were three times the number of positive cases in June, and in August, Worcester positive cases were almost three times the number of positive cases in July; and

WHEREAS; local hospitals are at maximum capacity, there are currently no regional medical hospital beds available and the one pediatric ICU in Worcester County is full; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, to preserve, promote and protect the well-being of residents of the city of Worcester, I, Michael P. Hirsh, M.D., duly appointed medical director for the city of Worcester Division of Public Health, acting under the authority of Chapter 120 of the Acts of 2014, Section 2; Article 10, Section 10(e) of the Worcester Revised Ordinances 2015, Part Two; and Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, § 31; do hereby issue the following as an emergency public health regulation, effective immediately.



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A. Employers shall encourage workers who test positive for COVID-19 to disclose and inform the employer for purposes of cleaning/disinfecting and contact tracing.

B. When an employer is notified of any positive case at the workplace, the employer must immediately notify the Board of Health.

C. Employers are required to assist the Board of Health with contact tracing efforts, including advising likely contacts to isolate and self-quarantine.

D. Employers will require testing of other workers at the request of the Board of Health.

E. Employers shall notify workers that they may not work if they test positive for COVID-19 (they should be isolated at home) or are found to be a close contact of someone with COVID-19 (they should be quarantined at home).

F. Notwithstanding the foregoing, vaccinated asymptomatic workers found to be a close contact of someone with COVID-19 may stay at work provided face coverings are worn and they are tested 3-5 days after their exposure.

G. Employers having businesses that operate at various shifts shall designate a Person in Charge for each shift to oversee implementation of the requirements of this regulation.

H. This regulation shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Worcester Board of Health.

Issued this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.

Ratified by vote of the Worcester Board of Health on September 27, 2021.



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Michael P. Hirsh, M.D.  
Medical Director  
Worcester Division of Public Health

Rescinded by vote of the Worcester Board of Health on \_\_\_\_\_.