



**EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE
TOWN OF NEW SHOREHAM September 1, 2021
MASKS**

WHEREAS, the CDC has recommended that Americans fully vaccinated against COVID-19 should go back to wearing masks in indoor public places in regions where the coronavirus is spreading rapidly; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Department of Health reported that Rhode Island has "high" transmission of the coronavirus as described by the CDC; and

WHEREAS, the state reported 205 new cases per 100,000 people in the past seven days, and the threshold for high transmission is 100 cases per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chan, a consultant medical director with the Rhode Island Department of Health, recommended that masks be worn in indoor public spaces; and

WHEREAS, this time of year Block Island is overwhelmed with tourists from all over the country and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Warcup, the Medical Director of the Block Island Medical Center, has reported a continuing increase in the number of coronavirus cases on Block Island to the Town Council.

The Town Council of the Town of New Shoreham does hereby adopt the following Emergency Ordinance pertaining to masks for purposes of protecting the public health, safety and/or general welfare of the Town which are imminently imperiled by COVID-19:

1. All persons on Block Island who are in indoor places open to the public, shall cover their mouths and noses with a mask or cloth face covering. Face coverings are not required for

people who can easily, continuously, and measurably maintain at least six (6) feet of distance from other people.

2. For purposes of this ordinance “indoor” is defined as any enclosed structure where 50% or more of the sides are closed to the outdoors.

3. Patrons of restaurants and other establishments which serve food and/or beverages shall not be required to wear a mask or cloth face covering while eating or drinking.

4. Nothing in this Emergency Ordinance shall be construed so as to require face masks or other coverings of those whose health would be damaged thereby or who are developmentally unable to comply, including young children who may not be able to effectively wear a mask.

5. Nothing in this Emergency Ordinance shall be construed so as to require a place of business to refuse entry to a customer not wearing a face covering.

6. This ordinance shall become effective at 12:00 noon on September 3, 2021 and shall continue in full force and effect until modified or revoked by the Town Council.

7. Violations of this ordinance will carry a \$50 fine.

Town Clerk:



First Warden:


