



# Borough of Chambersburg

*A full service municipality in Franklin County celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service over 120 years of community electric and a regional wastewater, water, storm sewer and municipal solid waste utility*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CHAMBERSBURG BOROUGH AMENDS MANY COVID-19 MITIGATION RULES

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**Chambersburg** – On May 17, 2021, Chambersburg Town Council authorized the Borough Manager to amend the Borough's official COVID-19 mitigation rules. This action was taken in response to new rules issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Governor Tom Wolf earlier this month.

**The revised Borough rules impact Borough-owned facilities including City Hall and the Chambersburg Aquatic Center, as well as public events organized in public parks and on Borough streets.**

The changes are effective at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, and represent the most significant changes in Borough policies since the beginning of the COVID-19 health emergency.

Finally, the Town Council would like to thank Dr. Raghavendra Tirupathi, an infectious disease specialist, at Keystone Health, who has appeared before Town Council at several public meetings to discuss the progress of the virus as well as recently to discuss the progress of vaccinations in our community.

### **OCCUPANCY RULES:**

Effective June 1, 2021, there will be no further indoor or outdoor occupancy limitations at Borough indoor or outdoor facilities, with the exception of the Chambersburg Aquatic Center.

All facilities can have occupancies up to their fire code rated uses.

Indoor facilities (offices, lobby, conference room, council chambers, gymnasiums, hallways, restrooms, etc.) and outdoor facilities (parks, playgrounds, picnic shelters, play areas, fields, plazas, parking areas, etc.) will have no additional limitations on occupancy quantity, effective June 1, 2021.

The Chambersburg Aquatic Center bather load will be restricted to 50% beginning with opening day on May 29, 2021; and, the Borough Manager is permitted to increase that occupancy as he feels appropriate given the social distancing and mitigation measures he witnesses at the facility. A bather load counter app is installed and visitors can check the number of visitors at the Aquatic Center by clicking on a link at the Aquatic Center website: [https://www.chambersburgpa.gov/rec\\_dep/aquatic\\_center.php](https://www.chambersburgpa.gov/rec_dep/aquatic_center.php)

### **INDOOR BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:**

Effective June 1, 2021, the Borough will continue to suggest strongly the three (3) main mitigation practices indoors at Borough-facilities: cleaning/good hygiene, social distancing, and temperature checks. For now, the Borough's body temperature self-check stations will remain installed at City Hall.

The Borough strongly suggests that visitors and employees wash their hands regularly, avoid nose and eye contact with your hands, and sneeze into your elbows. These are good practices to keep folks healthy regardless.

Finally, the Borough strongly suggests that persons stand six feet apart or less than six feet for periods under 15 minutes whenever possible, unless they live in the same household. These are also just good practices.

### **UNIVERSAL FACE COVERING RULE OUTDOORS:**

Effective June 1, 2021, **THOSE EMPLOYEES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE FULLY VACCINATED DO NOT NEED A FACE COVERING WHEN OUTSIDE AT BOROUGH FACILITIES OR IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY.** Seriously consider getting your vaccine today to enjoy this benefit. When outdoors, one should wear a face covering when **NOT VACCINATED.**

This update would include parks, pavilions, playgrounds, Borough-streets, and at Borough outdoor special events.

Food vendors in the public streets may have separate rules established by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

All employees, agents, volunteers, and vendors of the Borough may choose to wear a face covering in outdoor public places when among other individuals unless doing so would conflict with the safe performance of their job assignment or if they are fully vaccinated.

**CHAMBERSBURG AQUATIC CENTER (opens to the public May 29, 2021):**

Visitors to the **Chambersburg Aquatic Center**, which is both an indoor and outdoor facility, who are two years old or older, should wear face coverings *unless* under the following circumstances:

- If they are swimming or on the pool deck;
- If wearing a face covering would cause or exacerbate a medical condition, including breathing or mental health conditions, or disabilities;
- If they are engaged in athletic activities;
- If eating or drinking;
- If they are fully vaccinated and no other person is nearby who is not a member of their same household.

Employees and visitors at the Aquatic Center indoor spaces (i.e., restrooms, concession stand, offices, etc.) are asked to continue to wear a face covering inside for now.

**UNIVERSAL FACE COVERING RULE INDOORS (temporary extension on June 1, 2021):**

Everyone must continue to wear a face covering when indoors in Borough-owned facilities (offices, lobby, conference rooms, Council Chambers, gymnasiums, hallways, restrooms, etc.), irrespective of physical distance or vaccination status; however, if a Borough employee is working alone, and has no expectation of being around any other person, they no longer need to wear a face covering indoors.

According to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, towns can make their own interpretation of rules. In Borough-owned indoor spaces, whether you are vaccinated or not, the Borough still requires face coverings.

**The Borough is still requiring the use of face coverings in all indoor Borough offices for now, unless the employee or visitor is alone in an enclosed space by himself or herself.**

This local policy requires individuals to wear a face covering when indoors in Borough-owned facilities, irrespective of physical distance, irrespective of whether vaccinated or not.

Individuals must wear face coverings unless wearing a face covering would create an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines. Even if vaccinated, when indoors in Borough-owned facilities, this policy still applies.

It is possible as the number of citizens who are vaccinated rises the Borough may lift or amend the indoor face covering policy. For example, the Governor announced further changes to go into effect on June 28, 2021.

As of today, the Governor’s declaration of a health emergency remains in effect.

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**About The Borough of Chambersburg**

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions (police, fire, parks, etc.), Chambersburg is Pennsylvania’s only municipality supplying electric and gas to residents and businesses. Chambersburg is one of thirty-five boroughs (out of 958) to operate a non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate multiple generation stations. Chambersburg is one of two municipalities in Pennsylvania to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is one of about two thousand communities to have its own electric system and one of about eight-hundred communities to have a natural gas system, but one of only about fifty to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent board or authority), and a new storm sewer utility (one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater). Chambersburg currently has 20,832 residents (2019).