

ORDINANCE #40
TOWN OF HANOVER
EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATION

The Health Officer of Hanover, New Hampshire implements the following **Emergency Public Health Regulation Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Declaration of Purpose:

The purpose of Ordinance #40, Emergency Public Health Regulation, is to enact public health provisions designed to significantly reduce the spread of COVID-19, a highly contagious virus that poses a dangerous health threat to citizens. These provisions, recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, and further promulgated by the Director of Public Health for the State of New Hampshire, must be implemented on a community-wide basis as part of the Town of Hanover's COVID-19 public health response plan.

Authority:

RSA 147:1.

WHEREAS, the Town of Hanover, New Hampshire Health Officer recognizes additional measures are necessary to prevent or reduce activities that increase the likelihood of the spread of a highly contagious and potentially life-threatening virus; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has stated, as of August 2020, that the best means of slowing the spread of the virus is to minimize close personal contact with others, to keep a distance of six feet between yourself and others, to limit the size of gatherings, to wear a face covering over your mouth and nose, and to wash hands properly and often; and

WHEREAS, Dartmouth College has enacted a rule which states that after an initial 14-day quarantine period, students living in on campus or in off-campus housing, must limit their gatherings to fewer than 10 people with the use of masks and proper physical/social distancing, in order to reduce the risk of a COVID spread; and

WHEREAS, based on the on-campus gathering size limitations implemented by Dartmouth College, it makes sense for the Town of Hanover to implement similar limitations in off-campus settings so as to minimize the chances of COVID spread fueled by larger gatherings as has happened around the U.S.; and

WHEREAS: The CDC has outlined that the risk of COVID-19 spreading at events and gatherings increases as follows: (1) lowest risk involves virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings; (2) more risk involves smaller outdoor gatherings in which individuals from different

households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear cloth face coverings, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., a community, town, city, or county); (3) higher risk involves medium-sized in-person gatherings that are organized/laid out to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, some wear cloth face coverings and come from outside the local area (e.g., a community, town, city, or county); and (4) highest risk involves large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, do not wear cloth face coverings and travel from outside the local area and the most conservative approach short of virtual gatherings is to minimize the number of people in attendance; and

WHEREAS, the neighboring City of Lebanon hosts Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, the State's largest medical care facility which also brings thousands of patients to the immediate region on a weekly basis; and

WHEREAS, Hanover is home to four senior congregate living facilities housing more than 900 residents, a population which is at higher risk for suffering life threatening complications resulting from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, being able to quickly conduct contact tracing has been identified as critical in limiting the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hanover has previously adopted Ordinance #39 requiring the wearing of masks; and

WHEREAS, all residents of Hanover share the goal of minimizing the viral load in Hanover and neighboring communities in order to keep the College open to on campus learning and to provide as close to a normal environment as possible in these difficult times.

NOW THEREFORE: For the purposes of continuing to provide safety for its residents and visitors resulting from the unique features of a college community with students about to convene on campus from all over the world, adjacency of the state's largest major medical center, presence of over 900 seniors living in congregate communities and a local public school system about to reconvene in-person in school facilities, all factors which lead the community, out of an abundance of caution, to do everything possible to limit the potential spread of COVID, the Hanover Health Officer hereby orders:

1. All gatherings on or in residential properties in Hanover shall be limited to fewer than ten (10) people not including the residents of the properties.
2. All gatherings will require a designated host who shall maintain the following contact information on all guests:
 - Name
 - Email
 - Telephone number
 - Property address and unit number.

- 3 Exceptions to the fewer than (10) person limit will be considered by the Town upon the submittal of an Activities Permit to the Town of Hanover which provides the opportunity to carefully review the elements of the proposed event and to determine if effective safety protocols can be put in place.
- 4 All owners of property or their authorized agents shall be prepared to provide the following information for each occupant residing at a property, whether or not they are signatories to a lease of the unit, immediately upon request of the State Division of Public Health Services via the Town Health Officer and Deputy Health Officers in the event of a need to conduct contact tracing due to a potential COVID exposure:
 - Name
 - Email
 - Telephone number
 - Property address and unit number.
5. Any violation of this Regulation shall be a violation, punishable by: (1) a verbal warning; (2) a citation and a fine of \$200; and (3) a citation and a fine of \$1,000, in each case where each infraction constitutes a separate fine.
6. This order shall remain in effect until notice is given that it is no longer necessary because the State of New Hampshire declares that a Public Health Emergency no longer exists.
7. Having held two public hearings on August 17, 2020 and August 31, 2020, this Ordinance shall be in effect as of August 31, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, a majority of the Selectboard have hereunder set their hands.

TOWN OF HANOVER SELECTBOARD

Peter L. Christie, Chair

Athos Rassias, Vice Chair

Nancy A. Carter

William V. Geraghty

Joanna Whitcomb