

Vanguard Key Club – Newburyport

Updated Mask Policy – November 2020

Recently, there has been a little confusion as to how the Governor's recent changes in mask policies affect our members as it relates to the utilization of our private facilities and mask use. As a facility which remains locked and accessible only to our members with no staff on site (only very good surveillance), we operate much differently than probably anything the governor or his advisors would consider when making these changes. Our traffic counts are lower than a "traditional" gym for the most part (well below the recommended 10 people per 1,000 sf – we average 1-2) and members are not only expected, but required to adhere to all of the policies we have established. In the event that policies or guidelines are put in place by others, such as the Governor in this case, it is strongly recommended that members follow those rules or risk whatever penalty the Commonwealth feels is necessary to impose and enforce ensure compliance in this matter .

Therefore, in an attempt to help each member comply with these new guidelines and feel comfortable in knowing that every person must follow the same set of rules, **I am modifying our mask policy to better track with the intent of the Commonwealth.**

Moving forward, we are asking all members on site to have a mask on their person at all times. Use of this mask is paramount to not receiving any unwanted rebukes from Vanguard Key Clubs or the State. As a private organization, we will enforce this policy as we see fit if members find that they are unable to comply. Be aware, however, this is a new State guideline and only they are ultimately responsible for enforcing the rules they created under the penalties they have instituted such as fines. **We retain the authority to enforce as we see fit which may result in frozen or terminated memberships.**

So allow me to cut to the chase as it were. If I begin to receive calls and/or emails about members not wearing their masks in appropriate settings within the gym, acting disrespectful to other people or getting into their "personal bubble" without a mask or following simple social distancing guidelines that are already in place, or if I have to engage with any individuals getting into arguments or debates with one another over the mask policy, I will put a quick end to these matters by removing these headaches from my purview which might result in a member's inability to access our facilities.

As a company, we have seen more than our normal share of challenges this year. Our industry has been tagged as "non-essential" (this means people have a "choice" to attend I guess?) unlike in traditional "public" or "essential" settings that we apparently cannot do without, and we have also become a media darling for "pundits" who claim gyms "may not be safe", with little evidence to back it up...in fact more evidence directly to the contrary. So we have some serious trials to work through in the arena of public opinion still.

We have many hurdles still yet to overcome and this act of each member stepping in line to ensure we can remain accessible to you is one of the smallest challenges we face as a fitness community. It will, however, require **EVERYONE** to police themselves and others on this matter. **The responsibility is on each and every one of you.** If the data fed to the Governor does not improve, I have no doubt he will

move toward shutting down non-essential businesses like us once again. So I will most certainly side with removing any reluctant, irresponsible or belligerent non-mask user from the gym before I shut my doors again.

Finally, the Commonwealth does provide for certain exceptions to the rule and you are welcome to seek those out, but please just use some common sense, **know your environment and who is in it**, behave accordingly and with the intent of why these guidelines are in place, get in the best workout you can and move on. With your cooperation and understanding, we will be in a better position to continue to provide the best services we can for you without interruption. When the data improves, we will all be able to figuratively, and literally, breathe again.

Thank you for your cooperation and I encourage anyone who still has questions to contact me.

Be Well,

Craig