



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

EXECUTIVE ORDER

No. 21 -2021

September 30, 2021

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 CONTINUED DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

WHEREAS, Section 14-111 of the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland provides for the declaration of a Local State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, Section 10-328(b) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland states that a county may provide for the prevention of contagious diseases in the county; and

WHEREAS, Subtitle 6 of the Prince George's County Code provides for the declaration of a Local State of Emergency by the County Executive and provides authority to issue rules and regulations as deemed necessary to control the situation; and

WHEREAS, the outbreak of the highly infectious and contagious 2019 Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), its variants, and the respiratory disease that it causes – Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) – has been experienced by both Prince George's County ("the County") and across the world; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States proclaimed that the COVID- 19 pandemic in the United States constituted a national emergency beginning March 1, 2020 and a continuation of that declaration was issued on February 24, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization, on March 11, 2020, announced that the COVID-19 outbreak can be characterized as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Prince George's County, Maryland ("the County") previously issued the following emergency declarations: Executive Order Number 6-2020 dated March 16, 2020; Executive Order Number 7-2020 dated April 13, 2020; CR-31-2020 adopted May 11, 2020; Executive Order Number 8-2020 dated May 14, 2020; Executive Order Number 10-2020 dated May 28, 2020; CR-51-2020 adopted June 9, 2020; Executive Order Number 13-2020 dated June 12, 2020; Executive Order Number 15-2020 dated June 25, 2020 and CR-64-2020 adopted July 7, 2020; Executive Order Number 20-2020 dated September 3, 2020; CR-90-101 adopted September 15, 2020 ; CR-101-2020 adopted October 13, 2020; CR-125-2020 adopted November 17, 2020; and Executive Order 27-2020 dated December 15, 2020; CR-02-2021 adopted January 12, 2021; Executive Order 3-2021 dated January 26, 2021; CR-13-2021 adopted February 16, 2021; Executive Order 8-2021 adopted March 11, 2021; CR-33-2021 adopted March 30, 2021; CR-48-

2021 adopted May 11, 2021; Executive Order 11-2021 adopted May 14, 2021; Executive Order 14-2021 dated May 26, 2021; Executive Order 17-2021 adopted June 28, 2021 (amended Executive Order 14-2021; CR- 77-2021 adopted July 6, 2021; Executive Order 18-2021 dated August 5, 2021; and CR-80-2021 adopted September 10, 2021;

WHEREAS, Prince George's County, Maryland has been and continues to be severely impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, as of September 24, 2021, the number of COVID-19 positive cases in the County is 95,815, with approximately 9,561 hospitalizations and approximately 1,618 deaths; and

WHEREAS, based upon data available as of September 16, 2021, the County's infection rate is 0.96, which places the County in the medium-risk category for disease transmission, and

WHEREAS, based upon data available as of September 24, 2021, the County's positivity rate is 4.5%, which falls within the medium-risk category for disease transmission, and

WHEREAS, per data available as of September 24, 2021, the average daily case rate is 16.6 per 100,000 residents, which is the high-risk category for disease transmission and is 48% higher than the daily case rate at the beginning of August 2021; and

WHEREAS, current available data shows that hospital capacity is currently at 52.0%, which is slightly above 50% capacity, and that the number of COVID-19 admissions in hospitals within the county have remained above 90 for over one month; and

WHEREAS, the number of cases in the County is 12 times higher since the week before July 4, 2021 and has remained above 1,000 cases per week over the past 7 weeks; and

WHEREAS, as of September 23, 2021, approximately 994,828 vaccinations have been reported for 571,078 County residents. Per statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 80.6% of adult County residents have received at least one COVID-19 vaccination and 71.3% of adults County residents have completed a vaccination series; and

WHEREAS, the County's health care system continues to need resources to effectively combat this emergency; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has recommended that, in areas of "substantial and high transmission," both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals should wear face coverings to reduce their risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and potentially spreading it to others. As of the date of this Order, the CDC has designated the County as an area of "substantial transmission"; and

WHEREAS, new evidence regarding the transmissibility of the Delta variant of COVID-19 shows a greater risk of spread via individuals, regardless of their vaccination status, than was initially thought; and

WHEREAS, although there has been some improvement in several relevant metrics, it is still necessary that the County remain vigilant and cautious:

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to pose an imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare of County residents; and

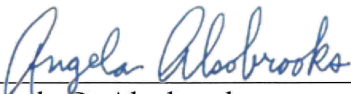
WHEREAS, CR-80-2021 authorizes the County Executive to amend the County's emergency declaration.

NOW, THEREFORE, on this 30th day of September 2021, I, Angela D. Alsobrooks, County Executive for Prince George's County, Maryland, hereby proclaim that a Local State of Emergency continues to exist in Prince George's County, Maryland and that it is necessary and reasonable, to save lives and to protect the public safety and welfare of all Prince Georgians during this pandemic, by controlling and preventing the further spread of COVID- 19, to issue the following Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that, as of October 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.:

- I. The following rules apply to Face Coverings:
- A. "Face Covering" means a covering that fully covers a person's nose and mouth. The term "Face Covering" includes, without limitation, scarves and bandanas. It is recommended that all reusable Face Coverings be cleaned frequently (at least once per day).
 - B. All persons over the age of two are required to wear a Face Covering indoors in ALL public places, *regardless of vaccination status and even where a person is able to maintain six feet of distance from other persons.*
 - C. Requiring children ages two through five to wear a Face Covering for extended periods of time may be challenging. In these circumstances, wearing a mask could be prioritized for times where social distancing of six feet is more difficult.
 - D. Retail, restaurant, and business establishments must take all steps necessary to ensure that customers and employees comply with this Executive Order including signs on entrance doors requiring Face Coverings to be worn and frequent announcements that persons must wear a Face Covering.
 - E. Single-use Face Coverings shall be properly discarded in trash receptacles.
 - F. **EXCEPTIONS**. A person is not required to wear a Face Covering in an establishment that is operating consistent with all State and County laws/regulations if at least one of the below categories applies:
 - a. due to a bona fide disability or medical condition, it would be unsafe for the person to wear a Face Covering;
 - b. wearing a Face Covering would impede communication by or with persons who have a hearing impairment or other disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
 - c. wearing a Face Covering would subject the person to an unsafe working condition, as determined by federal, state, or local occupational safety regulators or workplace safety guidelines;
 - d. wearing a Face Covering would make it impossible to receive medical or personal services requiring access to the face, mouth, or head, including without limitation, dental or medical care;
 - e. while at an establishment and consuming food or beverages;

- f. and/or while in the water at a swimming pool.
- II. Requests for consideration of an alternative to the requirements of Section I or questions as to compliance with this Order, should be submitted to Covidplans@co.pg.md.us with detailed information. Inquires will be reviewed by the Health Department and Office of Emergency Management staff members. Every effort will be made to provide a response within 10 business days of receipt of the request.
- III. Unvaccinated individuals continue to be STRONGLY encouraged to get vaccinated and continue wearing their masks outdoors until they are fully vaccinated. "Fully vaccinated" means the individual has received all required dosages as applicable to the vaccine received, including two weeks post the date of the last dose.
- IV. Further restrictions may be reinstated if the relevant metrics show measurable increase in the spread of the COVID-19 virus and that more restrictive measures are needed to save lives and to protect the public safety and welfare.
- V. The County will continue to conduct scheduled and unscheduled inspections of retail, restaurant, and other business establishments to check for compliance with this Order.
- VI. This Order will be enforced by the Prince George's County Health Department, with the assistance of Prince George's County law enforcement and other appropriate County employees as determined by the Chief Administrative Officer, as needed.
- VII. Non-compliance may subject the individual, or the owner/operator of an establishment, to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 pursuant to the Prince George's County Code. In addition, the establishment may face closure pursuant to the legal authority of the Health Officer or other legal authority.
- VIII. This Order supersedes any contradictory regulation in CR-80-2021.
- IX. This Order shall remain in effect until October 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., unless amended or terminated earlier.
- X. If any provision of this Order, or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance, is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of the Order shall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Order are severable.



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive