A RESOLUTION concerning

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, MARYLAND’S FIFTEENTH CONTINUED DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY—CORONAVIRUS (“COVID-19”)

For the purpose of continuing the emergency declarations most recently adopted by the governing body on October 19, 2021, CR-122-2021, and as may be further amended.

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, including but necessarily limited to Division 5 of this Subtitle, provides for the declaration of a Local State of Emergency by the County Executive and the authority to issue rules and regulations as deemed necessary to control the situation; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States proclaimed that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constituted a national emergency beginning March 1, 2020; and

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

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

WHEREAS, as of data available through November 19, 2021, the number of COVID-19 positive cases in the County was 101,151 cases, with approximately 9951 hospitalizations and approximately 1689 deaths; and

WHEREAS, based upon reported data analysis as of November 15, 2021, the County’s infection rate is .99, its positivity rate is 2.4%, the average daily case rate is 7.9 per 100,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, available hospital capacity as of November 8, 2021 is 49.4%, with 6% of hospitals beds in use for patients with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the available hospital capacity does not take into account the shortage of health workers being reported by hospitals in the County, which places further strain on hospital resources; and

WHEREAS, as of about November 18, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is reporting that 87.2% of adult County residents ages 18 and over have received at least one vaccination and 76.8% are fully vaccinated; and
WHEREAS, as of November 18, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is reporting that 87% of County residents ages 12 and over have received at least one vaccine and 76.3% are fully vaccinated; and

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

WHEREAS, Section 14-111 (b) (1) of the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland states that the consent of the governing body is needed if a local declaration is continued or renewed for more than 30 days; and

WHEREAS, CR-122-2021 remains in effect through December 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., unless amended or terminated sooner; and

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

WHEREAS, several relevant metrics are now in the low or medium level of disease transmission for the key metrics, and there is continued concern over community spread of new COVID-19 variants, it is necessary that the County remain vigilant and cautious with its re-opening planning:

WHEREAS, as of November 22, 2021, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has indicated that the County is an area of “substantial” transmission; and

WHEREAS, available data shows that the predominant variant in the County is the highly transmissible Delta variant (also known as B.1.617.2), which continues to spread and affect a wider portion of the population and to create an increased risk of cases, hospitalizations, and death, particularly among unvaccinated individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that Prince George’s County, Maryland continue under a declaration of emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Prince George's County Emergency Operations Plan remain in full force and effect until terminated by the County Executive; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that 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 Resolution 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; and/or
   f. while in the water at a swimming pool.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** requests for consideration of an alternative to the face coverings requirements of this Resolution or questions as to compliance with this Resolution, be
submitted to Covidplans@co.pg.md.us with detailed information. Inquiries 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.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED unvaccinated residents are 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; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED additional restrictions will be reinstated if the relevant
metrics show measurable increase in the spread of the COVID virus and that more restrictive
measures are needed to save lives and to protect the public safety and welfare.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Resolution will go into effect on December 9, 2021 at 5:01 p.m.; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the directives set forth herein 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; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the County may continue to conduct scheduled and
unscheduled inspections of retail, restaurant and business establishments as needed to help
prevent increase in virus spread; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that non-compliance may subject the owner and/or operator
to a fine not exceeding $1,000 pursuant to the Prince George’s County Code and/or the
establishments to closure pursuant to the legal authority of the Health Officer and/or other legal
authority; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Executive Branch continue to provide regular
updates to the Council Chair or Vice Chair; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED this declaration supersedes any inconsistent provision of a
prior Council Resolution or Executive Order; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the provisions of the Resolution are severable such that
if any provision of this Resolution or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held
invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of this
Resolution hall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or
application; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this declaration of emergency shall stay in effect through January 23, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., unless amended or terminated sooner by the County Executive or as extended by a subsequent resolution of the governing body.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect on the day it is adopted.

Adopted this 29th day of November, 2021.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: Calvin S. Hawkins, II

CALVIN S. HAWKINS, II
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

Date: 12/2/2021

BY: Angela D. Alsobrooks

Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive