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CHARTERED 1787

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PRESS RELEASE
FROM
PITTSBORO MAYOR JAMES NASS

**AMENDMENT TO STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION:
TOWN OF PITTSBORO MASK MANDATE**

The Town of Pittsboro has issued a mandatory mask order effective at 5:00pm on September 24, 2021. This order shall be in effect until the Town's State of Emergency Proclamation is amended, to either alter or rescind the mask mandate.

The virus is surging through our community and adjoining communities, and it is our responsibility to take appropriate steps to protect public health and safety. Wearing a mask is a simple step we can all take to protect the health of our loved ones, especially children who are not old enough to receive the vaccine.

Science shows wearing a mask reduces the risk of spreading COVID-19, making it one of our greatest weapons in the fight against this harmful virus. Prompt action now will prevent the need for further restrictions, such as 6-foot social distancing, and enable us to beat the virus more quickly.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a person infected with the original COVID-19 strain has the potential to spread the virus to two people. Data show a person who has contracted the Delta variant could infect anywhere from five to six and potentially even 10 people.

Pittsboro aligns with CDC guidance, which recommends everyone in areas designated as having substantial spread wear a mask in public indoor settings —even those people who are fully vaccinated. Masks have proven effective in stopping viral spread, thereby keeping infection rates down.

The purpose of the mandate is to educate the community about the benefits of wearing masks, support employers and others in creating an expectation that masks be worn and raise awareness about the need to slow the spread of COVID-19.

With local hospitals reaching critical capacity levels, it's important that residents do their part to keep our healthcare system from becoming overwhelmed,

In addition to wearing masks, Pittsboro strongly encourages residents to get vaccinated. No cost COVID-19 vaccines are available to anyone 12 and older.

It is not just our local citizens who patronize our restaurants and businesses, but those who visit from across the state and beyond.

These are the latest numbers:

Chatham:	259 new cases & 91 deaths
Lee:	593 new cases
Alamance:	1,464 new cases
Orange:	500 new cases
Wake:	6,194 new cases
Durham:	1,253 new cases

We hope to be able to rescind this mandatory mask order as soon as possible and ask that all of our citizens join together to keep our children and most at risk citizens safe.

James Nass
Mayor, Pittsboro, NC



**TOWN OF PITTSBORO
AMENDMENT TO STATE OF EMERGENCY
PROCLAMATION**

Sec. 1. The undersigned, in consideration of changing circumstances related to COVID-19, previously adopted a Declaration of Emergency on March 17, 2020 with restrictions deemed necessary and specific to the Town of Pittsboro. Despite improving COVID-19 trends over several months of Spring and early Summer 2021, the undersigned determines the following:

- a. COVID-19 variants continue to spread throughout the nation and the Town of Pittsboro; and
- b. COVID-19 positive test rates are increasing both nationwide and in the Town of Pittsboro and continue in an upward trend; and
- c. Hospitalizations due to COVID-19 have increased substantially and are similar to the nationwide and statewide upward trend for hospitalizations; and
- d. Even though vaccinations in Town of Pittsboro are near the highest level in the state, vaccination rates have slowed considerably; and
- e. Vaccinated persons are far less likely to contract COVID-19, however the Delta variant has infected and continues to infect vaccinated persons and can be retransmitted to others by them as determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and
- f. The CDC and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services have issued guidance calling for all people, including those who are vaccinated, to wear masks in indoor spaces when they are around people they do not live with in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19;
- g. Many of those who contract the virus may be asymptomatic and may not be aware they carry the virus but can still transmit the disease; and
- h. Data shows the disease, and the Delta variant in particular is easily spread and indoor gatherings can result in further transmissions of the virus; and
- i. It is essential to slow viral transmission and community spread as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and children under twelve (12) years old, and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed; and

j. Prompt action now together with cooperation from and vigilance by the public can reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and prevent the need for greater restrictions in the future.

Sec. 2. In consideration of all available data related to the impacts of COVID-19 in the Town of Pittsboro, the undersigned hereby determines it is in the best interest of the residents of the Town of Pittsboro to leave in place the Proclamation of a State of Emergency and to continue to follow the terms of Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order 220 related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and any other currently effective COVID-19 Executive Orders. Pursuant to factors set out above, the available data related to the impacts of COVID-19 in the Town, the Proclamation of a State of Emergency related to COVID-19 heretofore entered is hereby amended as follows:

a. The State of Emergency in the Town of Pittsboro is amended as stated herein and continues until such time as it is rescinded or terminated by the mayor; and

b. In addition to the terms of Executive Order 220, and all subsequent COVID-19 related Executive Orders, the following additional restrictions are mandatory in the Town of Pittsboro.

1. Face Coverings are REQUIRED in all indoor public places including public transportation facilities and vehicles.

2. Face Coverings need not be worn by anyone who:

- (a) has a diagnosed medical or behavioral condition or disability, including difficulty breathing,
- (b) is a child under two (2) years of age,
- (c) is a child under five (5) years of age and their parent, guardian, or responsible person has been unable to place and maintain a Face Covering safely on the child's face.
- (d) is actively eating or drinking,
- (e) is seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired in a way that requires the mouth to be visible,
- (f) is giving a speech or performance for a broadcast or to an audience where they maintain a distance of at least twenty (20) feet from the audience,
- (g) is working alone in an individual office setting (however, such person(s) shall apply a Face Covering when in common areas such as breakrooms, hallways, restrooms, or other areas where additional persons may be encountered),
- (h) has determined the Face Covering is impeding their visibility in the operation of equipment or a vehicle,
- (i) is swimming.

- (j) is being photographed by a professional photographer.
- (k) is alone in an enclosed space, such as a room, office, or vehicle.

3. Worship, religious, and spiritual gatherings, funeral ceremonies, and wedding ceremonies are exempt from all the requirements of Section 2.

4. Any person who declines to wear a Face Covering or have a child wear a face covering for the reasons identified in Section 2.c. above shall not be required to produce documentation or proof of a condition.

5. Every person should be truthful and should only cite these exceptions when they actually apply so that they do not put other people at risk of serious illness and death.

6. Businesses are encouraged to accommodate exceptions if someone states that an exception applies by choosing to offer curbside service, provide home delivery, or use some other reasonable measure to deliver goods or services that are regularly received indoors.

7. "Face Covering" means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears and fits snugly against the side of a person's face. A Face Covering can be made of a variety of synthetic and natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen. Ideally, a Face Covering has two (2) or more layers. A Face Covering may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or improvised from household items such as scarfs, bandanas, I-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels. These Face Coverings are not necessarily intended for use by healthcare providers in the care of patients.

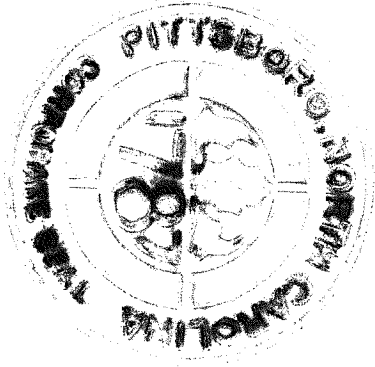
Sec. 3. This Declaration shall not be interpreted or applied to conflict with any existing federal, state, or local law or either the federal or North Carolina constitutions

Sec. 4. This amendment is adopted pursuant to the authority granted by Chapter 18 of the Town Code of Ordinances and Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Sec.5. A copy of this Amendment shall be provided to the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners. Reports of the substance of its prohibitions and restrictions shall be sent immediately to the mass communications media serving the Town. As soon as practicable, the full text of this Amendment shall be distributed to the mass communications media serving the Town. A copy of this Amendment shall be posted conspicuously on the Town website. Notice and a signed copy of this Amendment to the Declaration of a State of Emergency in the Town of Pittsboro shall be submitted to the Department of Public Safety WebEOC.

This Amendment is effective at 5:00 pm on Friday, September 24, 2021.

TOWN OF PITTSBORO



By:

James Nass

Mayor