



**A PROCLAMATION RESCINDING THE IREDELL COUNTY THIRD PROCLAMATION
PURSUANT TO THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) REQUIRING THE WEARING OF FACE
MASKS IN COUNTY-OPERATED FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) a global pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of North Carolina declared a State of Emergency on March 10, 2020 to coordinate the State’s response and protective actions to address the COVID-19 public health emergency and to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Governor subsequently issued Executive Orders 117 – 245, instituting, amending and lifting various restrictions and measures to mitigate and slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Iredell County State of Emergency was declared on March 17, 2020 (“Original Declaration”) following its first presumptive positive case of COVID-19 on March 16, 2020, and the Original Declaration remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, A Second Proclamation pursuant to the Iredell County State of Emergency Declaration was declared on June 30, 2020 requiring the wearing of face masks in County-operated facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Second Proclamation requiring the wearing of face masks in County-operated facilities was rescinded on May 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, A Third Proclamation pursuant to the Iredell County State of Emergency Declaration was declared on August 26, 2021 that re-instituted the wearing of face masks in County–operated facilities; and

WHEREAS, Iredell County employs 1,469 people, who provide necessary and vital services to its residents, and many of these services require engaging with and being in close contact with the general public who are receiving County services and visiting County-operated facilities; and

WHEREAS, the driving consideration in the decisions to impose or lift masking requirements has been, and will continue to be, to protect the health of our county employees and maintain the ability of our departments to provide effective and efficient services to the public; and

WHEREAS, the decisions on masking requirements are conditions-based and involve a number of factors, to include requirements and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), State of North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Iredell County Health Department; the County positivity rate; the numbers of reported infections, hospitalizations and deaths in Iredell County; individual County department impacts; changes in the transmissibility and severity of the prevalent COVID-19 variant; and the efficacy and availability of the means of prevention and/or treatment of the disease.

WHEREAS, these factors have been constantly reviewed to determine the most advisable courses of action available to the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the numbers of reported COVID-19 cases more than doubled with 1,892 reported cases during the week after Christmas, 2021 culminating with the highest number of 3,404 cases reported through the week ending January 15, 2022, and which began to decline during the next three weeks to a total of 1,104 with the week ending February 5, 2022; with numbers continuing this trend during the second week of February; and

WHEREAS, the total number of hospitalizations in the three hospitals in the county reached its' highest number of 102 patients on January 28, 2022 and has since declined to 48 as of February 9, 2022; and

WHEREAS, all county departments are capable of functioning without significant degradation of services; and

WHEREAS, the CDC continues to encourages the use of face masks and KN95 and N95 respirators as a critical public health tool for preventing the spread of COVID-19, and has provided updated recommendations as of February 4, 2022 concerning the relative effectiveness of correctly worn cloth masks, surgical masks and KN95 and N95 respirators; and

WHEREAS, the County offers complimentary surgical and KN95 respirator masks to employees and the general public that visit County-operated facilities; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes that various preventative measures are now readily available to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 such as social distancing, frequent hand washing, vaccines, KN95 and N95 respirators, and at home testing kits as well as treatments that lessen the severity of the disease after infection; and

WHEREAS, as we collectively transition over the coming months from a nationwide pandemic to a potentially endemic COVID-19 presence with periodic nationwide or localized surges, individual responses based on informed choices is now both possible and preferable to prevent or limit the severity of COVID-19 infections as well as to maximize our economic potential and our social and community relationships; and

WHEREAS, with individual choice comes individual responsibility for the health and welfare of ourselves, family and community, together with mutual respect for the individual choices made by others; and

WHEREAS, we salute the perseverance and continued dedication of our County employees, together with our educators, municipal employees, volunteer first responders, the host of non-profit organizations, churches of Iredell County and citizens that have provided services, aid and comfort to everyone in Iredell County, North Carolinians and Americans throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Iredell County Board of Commissioners under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and Sections 2.72, 10.5-4 and 10.5-5 of the Iredell County Code of Ordinances:

Section 1. The State of Emergency declared March 17, 2020 remains in effect.

Section 2. I hereby rescind the Iredell County Third Proclamation Pursuant to the Declaration of the State of Emergency Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Requiring the Wearing of Face Masks in County-Operated Facilities and encourage employees and visitors to work together to control the spread of COVID-19 based on their personal choice and preference.

Section 3. This Proclamation does not supersede State or Federal law that is more restrictive such as federal law requiring face masks on public transportation including Iredell County Area Transportation System (ICATS).

Section 4. The County Manager is authorized to implement practices and procedures in accordance with the masking guidance of the CDC as it relates to exposures and positive cases in County staff.

Section 5. I hereby order this Proclamation: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with the Clerk to the Iredell County Board of Commissioners and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this Proclamation.

Section 6. This Proclamation shall take effect on Friday, February 11, 2022 at 5 p.m. and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DECLARED this the 10th day of February, 2022 at 11:50 am.


James B. Mallory III, Chairman
Iredell County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


Amy Anderson, Clerk to the Board