

EMERGENCY ORDER

WHEREAS, the United States and state of Georgia have experienced a recent drastic spike in new COVID-19 cases as well as hospitalizations; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of infection and death in the metropolitan Savannah area remains of great concern signifying the continued spread of the highly contagious and deadly COVID-19 disease: over the past 14 days at rates in excess of 100 per 100,000 Chatham County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) advises that the use of masks or cloth face coverings will slow the spread of COVID-19, and the CDC recommendations on PPE usage are hereby incorporated by reference; and

WHEREAS, taking measures to control outbreaks minimizes the risk to the public, maintains the health and the safety of the City’s residents, and limits the spread of infection in our communities and within the healthcare delivery system; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority of O.C.G.A. § 38-3-28(a), local governments are specifically empowered to enact rules and regulations as may be necessary for emergency management purposes; and

WHEREAS, this order is intended to be entered with due regard for the uniform principle that masks or face coverings will slow the spread of COVID-19 as contemplated by O.C.G.A. § 38-3-28(c); and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Mayor of the City of Savannah, with advice from the City Manager and other subject matter experts, emergency conditions persist within the City requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protections of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Savannah.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by local and state law;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that masks or facial coverings shall be required within the City to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus disease known as COVID-19 as follows:

1. All persons entering a building owned or occupied by the City of Savannah.
2. All persons entering any commercial establishment in the City are strongly advised to wear a face covering or mask while inside the establishment. This paragraph does not apply to religious establishments; however, the use of masks or face coverings is highly recommended during religious activity/services.
3. All persons occupying vehicles on guided tours are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering at all times while on the guided tour. “Vehicle” includes cars, trolleys, buses, bicycles, quadricycles, scooters, low speed vehicles, boats, and

pedicabs. This paragraph applies neither to persons traveling alone in a personal motor vehicle nor occupants of a motor vehicle provided such occupants reside together. A person who fails to comply with this sub paragraph shall be guilty of a civil infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$50.00 pursuant to Section 3-3015 of the City Code.

4. All restaurants, retail stores, salons, grocery stores, and pharmacies in the City are strongly encouraged to require their employees to wear a face covering at all times while having face-to-face interaction with the public.
5. Any person who is unable to safely wear a face covering due to age, an underlying health condition, or is unable to remove the face covering without the assistance of others is exempt from this Order.
6. Face coverings are not required in the following circumstances:
 - a. When a person is alone in an enclosed space or only with other household members;
 - b. During physical activity, provided the active person maintains a minimum of 6 feet from other people with whom they do not cohabitate;
 - c. While drinking, eating, or smoking;
 - d. When wearing a face covering causes or aggravates a health condition;
 - e. When wearing a face covering would prevent the receipt of personal services; and
 - f. When a person is 10 years of age or younger.
7. Should any provision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or word of this Order be rendered or declared invalid by any final court action in a court of competent jurisdiction or by reason of preemptive legislations, the remaining provisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or words of this Order has hereby issued shall remain in full force and effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no group in excess of 500 persons shall gather, convene, or assemble on any City-owned right-of-way, park, square, sidewalk, or within any City-owned property.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all City-owned community centers, including the Civic Center and Cultural Arts Center shall remain closed to the public. Certain services and programs at City Resource Centers may be offered, which shall include masks and social distancing. The City Manager is hereby directed to issue a re-opening schedule consistent with this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all City-owned buildings, with the exception of the Coastal Georgia Center, are hereby closed to the public until further notice. Public events scheduled to be held at the Savannah Civic Center through October 31, 2021 are hereby cancelled and may be rescheduled to a later date.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all permits issued by the City for events in public spaces are hereby REVOKED through October 31, 2021. No new permits will be issued until further notice with the exception of outdoor events of less than 500 persons that incorporate appropriate COVID protocols.


This Order is effective as of 12:01 p.m. on September 24, 2021 and shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. on October 23, 2021.

SO DECLARED at 9 : 00 a.m. on September 24, 2021.



ATTEST:


Mark Massey
Clerk of Council


Van R. Johnson II
Mayor, City of Savannah