

# PROPOSED

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2022, Legislative Day No. 1

Bill No. 6-22

Introduced by Ms. Rodvien

By the County Council, January 3, 2022

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Introduced and first read on January 3, 2022  
Public Hearing set for January 7, 2022 (Emergency Legislative Session)  
Bill Expires April 8, 2022

By Order: Laura Corby, Administrative Officer

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE concerning: COVID-19 and the Use of Face Coverings

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3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the County Executive to require face coverings in certain  
4 areas in response to a dramatic increase in the spread of COVID-19 in the County;  
5 limiting the duration of any requirements for face coverings; allowing certain  
6 extensions of time; providing for the termination of this Ordinance; and making this  
7 Ordinance an emergency measure.

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9 WHEREAS, COVID-19, an infectious and contagious respiratory disease that  
10 spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, was  
11 first detected in Anne Arundel County in 2020; and

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13 WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, Maryland Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
14 proclaimed a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency for the entire  
15 State of Maryland pursuant to Title 14 of the Public Safety Article of the State  
16 Code, due to the impending threat and continuing impact of the contagious disease  
17 known as COVID-19; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Governor's proclamation was in effect until July 1, 2021, when it  
20 was rescinded; and

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22 WHEREAS, in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Anne Arundel County,  
23 the County Executive proclaimed a civil emergency in the County on March 13,  
24 2020; and

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26 WHEREAS, the civil emergency proclaimed by the County Executive was  
27 extended by Bill No. 24-20, and was terminated on June 9, 2021 by Bill No. 55-21;  
28 and

1 WHEREAS, today there continues to be significant community transmission of the  
2 COVID-19 virus and its variants; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, community transmission of the COVID-19 virus and its variants  
5 within Anne Arundel County began to increase significantly in September of 2021  
6 and continues to threaten the lives, health, and safety of the citizens of Anne  
7 Arundel County; and

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9 WHEREAS, on or about December 27, 2021, Luminis Health reported that it has  
10 experienced a 325% increase since December 1, 2021, in the number of patients  
11 admitted to its hospitals with COVID-19; and

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13 WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 within Anne Arundel County has increased  
14 dramatically in the last four weeks, necessitating additional restrictive measures to  
15 save lives and prevent further exposure to COVID-19; and

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17 WHEREAS, face coverings are a recognized and recommended method for  
18 reducing the spread of COVID-19 according to the U.S. Centers for Disease  
19 Control and Prevention and the Maryland Department of Health; and

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21 WHEREAS, to reduce the threat to human health caused by the transmission of  
22 COVID-19 in the County, and to protect and save lives, it is necessary and  
23 reasonable that individuals in the County be required to use face coverings in  
24 certain instances to contain the spread of COVID-19; now, therefore

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26 SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,*  
27 That the County Executive, by executive order, may require that all persons over the age  
28 of two wear a face covering while indoors at any location or area where members of the  
29 public are generally permitted or while outdoors in public spaces when it is not feasible to  
30 maintain a physical distance of six feet from persons who are not members of the same  
31 household or residence if the County Executive, in consultation with the Health Officer,  
32 determines that face coverings are needed to curb the transmission of COVID-19 and its  
33 variants. For purposes of this section, “face covering” means a covering that fully covers,  
34 without gaps, a person’s nose, mouth, and chin and is secured to the person’s head, and  
35 may include an N95 or other medical-grade mask, except that medical-grade masks may  
36 not be mandated.

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38 SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted,* That an executive order issued under Section 1  
39 of this Ordinance may not be effective for more than 45 days, but may be extended for  
40 additional three-week periods by resolution of the County Council approved by not less  
41 than five of its members.

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43 SECTION 3. *And be it further enacted,* That this Ordinance shall remain in effect until  
44 May 1, 2022, after which it shall stand repealed and with no further action required by the  
45 County Council, be of no further force and effect.

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47 SECTION 4. *And be it further enacted,* That this Ordinance is an emergency ordinance  
48 which deals with an actual acute emergency necessary for the immediate preservation of  
49 the public peace, health, safety, and welfare, and being passed by the affirmative vote of

1 five members of the County Council, the same shall take effect from the date it becomes  
2 law.