



ARUNDEL CENTER
P.O. BOX 2700 - ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21404
Phone: 410-222-1821 - Fax: 410-222-1155
www.aacounty.org

STEUART PITTMAN
County Executive

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 56

TO REQUIRE FACE COVERINGS IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE COUNTY

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

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

WHEREAS, the Governor's proclamation was in effect until July 1, 2021, when it was rescinded; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Stuart Pittman, County Executive, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Charter and laws of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and §§ 1-6-101 *et seq.* hereby order and direct on this 30th day of December 2021, as follows:

1. Except as set forth in paragraph 2. of this Order, all persons over the age of two years shall wear a face covering while indoors at any location or area where members of the public are generally permitted or while outdoors in public spaces when it is not feasible to maintain a physical distance of six feet from persons who are not members of the same household or residence. For purposes of this Order, “face covering” means a covering that fully covers, without gaps, a person’s nose, mouth, and chin and is secured to the person’s head.

2. A person need not wear a face covering if:

(a) due to a bona fide disability or medical condition, it would be unsafe for the person to do so;

(b) wearing a face covering would impede communication by or with persons who have a hearing impairment, speech impairment, or other disability when the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication or therapy;

(c) a person is in the process of eating or drinking;

(d) wearing a face covering would subject the person to an unsafe working condition, as determined by established workplace safety laws or guidelines;

(e) wearing a face covering would make it impossible to receive services requiring access to the face, mouth, or head, including dental care, shaving, and facial treatments;

(f) a person is swimming or engaging in other physical activities where the use of a face covering is likely to pose a bona fide safety risk;

(g) a person is operating any public transportation conveyance if the person is the sole operator of the conveyance and is located in a separate compartment that is off-limits to riders;

(h) it is necessary to observe the person's entire face to verify the person's identity for bona fide security purposes;

(i) a person is giving a speech or performing for a broadcast or an audience so long as no one in a location accessible to the public is within six feet of the speaker; or

(j) there is another circumstance under which a face covering is not needed so long as the circumstance is approved by the health officer.

3. This Executive Order shall take effect as of noon on Friday, December 31, 2021, and shall continue until terminated by a subsequent Executive Order, or the local proclamation of emergency expires or is terminated, or extended by ordinance of the County Council, or January 7, 2022 at noon, whichever occurs first.

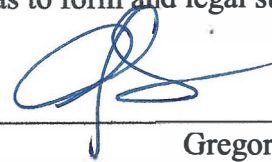
4. The Public Information Officer shall immediately disseminate notice of this Executive Order to the appropriate news media and to the general public.

This Executive Order shall be archived at the Office of Law and remain in existence until altered or terminated by a subsequent Executive Order or by law.



STEUART PITTMAN
County Executive

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:



Gregory J. Swain
County Attorney