AMENDED LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY ORDER ON REQUIRED USE OF A FACE MASK IN CERTAIN FACILITIES

ORDER ISSUED: February 25, 2022

WHEREAS, Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on March 12, 2020, due to a novel coronavirus now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority of Sections 81.082(a) and 121.024 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and Sections 85.1 (g) and 97.6(h) of the Texas Administrative Code, unless specifically preempted by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Local Health Authority has supervisory authority and control over the administration of communicable disease control measures within its jurisdiction when in his opinion these measures are necessary to protect the public health;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated their masking guidance on February 25, 2022, to create new COVID-19 Community Levels, which uses metrics of COVID-19 hospital admissions and hospital capacity with case data to identify when a community is facing a low, medium, or high level of risk from COVID-19;

THEREFORE, effective as of 10:00 p.m. on February 25, 2022, (“Effective Date”), and continuing until rescinded by the Local Health Authority, it is hereby AMENDED:

I. Face Coverings Required – Long-Term Care Facilities. Throughout the pandemic, long-term care facility and nursing home residents have been more likely to get seriously ill and die from COVID-19, which is why the CDC continues to recommend the wearing of masks in these settings. From the date of this Executive Order, all employees, residents, and visitors of Long-Term Care Facilities, including Skilled Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, and Nursing Homes are required to wear a face mask consistent with CDC guidance, regardless of vaccination status. For guidance specific to LTCFs, see:

II. Face Coverings Required – Healthcare Facilities. From the date of this Executive Order, all employees, patients, and visitors of healthcare facilities, including hospitals, clinics, physician offices and other healthcare settings, are required to wear a face mask consistent with CDC guidance specific to their setting. For guidance specific to healthcare settings, see:


III. Face Coverings Required – Certain Congregate Settings. From the date of this Executive Order, all employees, residents, and visitors of correctional facilities, detention facilities, and homeless shelters are required to wear a face mask consistent with CDC guidance specific to their setting. For guidance specific to congregate settings, see:


IV. COVID-19 Mitigation Measures. Please note that face coverings are a secondary strategy to other mitigation efforts. Face coverings are not a replacement for social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self-isolation when sick. All people should follow CDC recommendations for how to wear and take off a face mask. Residents should continue washing hands before you leave home and when you return any staying at least six feet away from others outside their households.

V. Severability. The sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases in this Order are severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Order should be declared invalid by the final judgement or decree of any court or competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections that can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

IT IS SO ORDERED

PHILIP HUANG, MD, MPH
LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY, CITY/COUNTY OF DALLAS