

HEALTH ADVISOR OF THE HOUSE

**ORDER UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HEALTH EMERGENCY ACTION ACT (HEAA)
(HCC § 11-1-2)**

**RENEWAL OF THE HEALTH EMERGENCY AND SUCH DIRECTIVES NECESSARY
IN ORDER TO REDUCE AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

SUMMARY:

- (1) Rescinding House Resolutions and Declarations (“Orders”) relating to the Health Emergency and COVID-19 boosters, excluding House Resolution 43;
- (2) Renewal of the Health Emergency;
- (3) Require facial coverings in certain circumstances;
- (4) Require COVID-19 testing; and
- (5) Require COVID-19 booster shots.

DEFINITIONS:

Facial coverings are defined as a surgical mask, such as a KN95 or N95. Cloth masks are not included in this definition.

Testing is defined as a rapid test (“at-home”) and/or a PCR tested by a laboratory.

Booster shots are defined as an additional vaccination to COVID-19 approved by the FDA and CDC.

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

This Order shall be interpreted and implemented in a matter as to achieve the following objectives:

- Protect human life;
- Mitigate introduction, transmission, and spread of COVID-19 to others; and
- Supporting response efforts to COVID-19.

APPLICABILITY:

This Order shall apply only to Members of the House and shall not apply to anyone who is not considered a Member of such House.

In respect to facial coverings, this Order shall apply in all public settings, when deemed necessary, including vacations, shopping centers, restaurants, and any other indoor place. Outdoor places whereas six (6) feet of distance can be achieved do not require facial coverings.

BACKGROUND:

There is currently a pandemic of respiratory disease (coronavirus disease 2019 or “COVID-19”) caused by a novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). As of January 27, 2021, there have been 99,638,507 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, resulting in more than 2,141,000 deaths. As of January 27, 2021, there have been over 25,000,000 cases identified in the United States and over 415,000 deaths due to the disease. New SARS-CoV-2 variants have emerged, including at least one with evidence of increased transmissibility.

The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads very easily and sustainably between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths, eyes, or noses of people who are nearby and possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Infected people without symptoms (asymptomatic) and those in whom symptoms have not yet developed (pre-symptomatic) can also spread the virus. In general, the more closely an infected person interacts with others and the longer those interactions, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. COVID-19 may be transmitted by touching surfaces or objects that have the virus on them and then touching one's own or another person's eyes, nose, or mouth.

Masks help prevent people who have COVID-19, including those who are pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic, from spreading the virus to others.

Masks are primarily intended to reduce the emission of virus-laden droplets, i.e., they act as source control by blocking exhaled virus.

This is especially relevant for asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic infected wearers who feel well and may be unaware of their infectiousness to others, and who are estimated to account for more than 50% of transmissions. Masks also provide personal protection to the wearer by reducing inhalation of these droplets, i.e., they reduce wearers' exposure through filtration.

The community benefit of wearing masks for SARS-CoV-2 control is due to the combination of these effects; individual prevention benefit increases with increasing numbers of people using masks consistently and correctly.

Appropriately worn masks reduce the spread of COVID-19—particularly given the evidence of pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19. Seven studies have confirmed the benefit of universal masking in community level analyses: in a unified hospital system, a German city, a U.S. State, a panel of 15 U.S. States and Washington, DC, as well as both Canada and the United States nationally. Each analysis demonstrated that, following directives from organizational and political leadership for universal masking, new infections fell significantly. Two of these studies and an additional analysis of data from 200 countries that included localities within the United States also demonstrated reductions in mortality. An economic analysis using U.S. data found that, given these effects, increasing universal masking by 15% could prevent the need for lockdowns and reduce associated losses of up to \$1 trillion or about 5% of gross domestic product.

Wearing a mask especially helps protect those at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and workers who frequently come into close contact with other people. Masks are most likely to

reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings. Using masks along with other preventive measures, including social distancing, frequent handwashing, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, is one of the most effective strategies available for reducing COVID-19 transmission.

In order to make all directives in one Order, I have decided to rescind all House Resolutions, excluding House Resolution 43, relating to the Health Emergency and COVID-19 boosters, where the House has given me expressed power to amend, rescind, or renew such Resolutions when an active Health Emergency exists. In addition, the same principal has been applied to Orders issued by me.

ACTION:

- (1) All previous House Resolutions relating to the Health Emergency and COVID-19 boosters, excluding House Resolution 43¹, are hereby rescinded effective immediately and shall no longer be in force or effect.
- (2) All previous Health Declarations (“Orders”) relating to the COVID-19 emergency are hereby rescinded effective immediately and shall no longer be in force or effect.
- (3) The Health Emergency as defined in HCC § 4-2-3(c) (2021) is hereby renewed for thirty (30) days.
- (4) Requirement of a facial covering if one of the following conditions is met:
 - (i) The individual presents symptoms² of COVID-19, regardless of a negative COVID-19 test;
 - (ii) The individual is a close contact of someone positive with COVID-19; or
 - (iii) The individual is recovering from COVID-19 and be considered as such for 10 days.
- (5) Requirement of all Members of the House to be up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations, including boosters, within the next twenty (20) days³.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This Order shall enter into effect on April 27, 2022 and will expire on May 27, 2022 at 11:59 PM⁴, or until I rescind the Health Emergency.

¹ House Resolution 43 (H. Res. 43) requires facial coverings in K-12 schools when the CDC County Color is in medium or high spread. The Resolution makes facial coverings optional when the spread is considered to be low. The Advisor has not rescinded this Resolution and therefore remains in effect until such time. Failure to comply with the Resolution is still classified as a failure to follow a Health Directive and can be subject to fines.

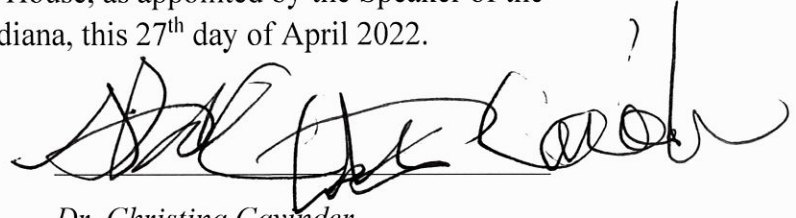
² Members are bound by law to report when they are sick under the Sick Reporting Act. If a Member is reported as such they are considered to “be presenting symptoms of COVID-19”, regardless of a negative test.

³ Failure to comply with being up-to-date within twenty (20) days can be classified as failing to follow a Health Emergency Directive and as such, can be subject to fines as defined under the Criminal Code Act and the Amendment to the Health Emergency Action Act (HEAA).

⁴ Under current law, a Health Order cannot go beyond thirty (30) days. However, the Health Advisor has the right to rescind, amend, or renew an Order when deemed necessary under HEAA.

No. 221-05

In testimony whereof, the Health Advisor of the House, as appointed by the Speaker of the House, has hereunto set her hand at La Porte, Indiana, this 27th day of April 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Christina Cavinder', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Christina Cavinder

Health Advisor of the House

Attest: