

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12

**PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC –
REVISED ORDER FOR MASKS AND FACE COVERINGS**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, I renewed the March 10, 2020 declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which new and renewed emergencies remained in effect until February 9, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2021, I renewed the March 10, 2020 and September 1, 2020 declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which new and renewed emergencies shall run concurrently and remain in effect until April 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2021, I signed into law Special Act 21-2, through which the General Assembly ratified the previously mentioned declarations and endorsed a renewal and extension of such declarations through May 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declarations, I have issued various executive orders to protect public health, limit transmission of COVID-19, and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (the “COVID-19 Orders”); and

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2021, I renewed the March 10, 2020 and September 1, 2020 declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which new and renewed emergencies shall run concurrently and remain in effect until through May 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2021, I signed into law House Bill 6686, through which the General Assembly endorsed a renewal and extension of such declarations and authorized me to continue to exercise the emergency powers provided in Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes through July 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2021, I renewed the March 10, 2020, September 1, 2020, January 26, 2021 and April 19, 2021, declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and

also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, which new and renewed emergencies shall run concurrently and remain in effect until through July 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic remains a grave threat to public health and safety and civil preparedness in the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms and through aerosol transmission; and transmission or “shedding” of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 may be most virulent before a person shows any symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has recommended that people with mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19 be assumed to be infected with the disease; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to slow transmission of COVID-19, including maintaining a safe distance from others and wearing masks or face coverings; and

WHEREAS, because COVID-19 has caused unanticipated health effects that are not fully understood by the medical community, residents, businesses, and government, agencies face new and unanticipated economic, fiscal, and operational challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut continues to successfully conduct a campaign to vaccinate as many residents as possible against COVID-19, including having opened eligibility to all residents aged 12 or older and having vaccinated a large percentage of those most vulnerable to serious health effects from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, I have previously announced that consistent with improved vaccination rates and reductions in COVID-19 infection rates, certain outdoor activities, could resume safely on May 1, 2021, and that on May 19, 2021, most remaining safety restrictions can be lifted; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 7NNN, Section 1 required the use of masks of cloth face coverings both indoors and outdoors wherever people could not maintain a safe distance of six feet from others; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control issued guidance that, because of data showing that vaccinated people are highly unlikely to transmit or contract COVID-19 people

who have been fully vaccinated need not wear face masks or face coverings except for in certain rare settings such as correctional facilities, transportation facilities, schools, healthcare facilities, and homeless shelters; and

WHEREAS, in certain indoor settings where the risk of COVID-19 infection is higher because of the concentration of large numbers of people, the presence of people with underlying conditions or compromised immune systems, the difficulty of ascertaining who has been vaccinated may require the universal wearing of masks and face coverings;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

1. Executive Order No. 7NNN, Section 1 is repealed. Effective immediately, any person while indoors in a public place who does not maintain a safe social distance of approximately six feet from every other person and who is not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face covering. A person shall be considered [fully vaccinated 14 days after receiving the final recommended dose](#) of a vaccine approved for use against COVID-19 by U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or as otherwise defined by the Centers for Disease Control. In addition, all persons shall use masks or cloth face coverings in any taxi, car, livery, ride-sharing or similar service, commercial aircraft, or any means of mass public transit, or while within any airport, bus or train station, enclosed transit stop or waiting area, homeless shelter or correctional facility.
 - a. Nothing in this order shall require the use of a mask or cloth face covering by anyone for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition, behavioral condition, or disability, or anyone under the age of 2 years. Any person who declines to wear a mask or face covering because of a medical condition, behavioral condition, or disability shall be exempt from this order and any requirement to wear masks or face coverings promulgated in or pursuant to any COVID-19 Order, but only if such person provides written documentation that the person is qualified for the exemption from a licensed or certified medical provider, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, social worker, or behavior analyst, the Department of Developmental Services or other state agency that provides or supports services for people with emotional, intellectual or physical disabilities, or a person authorized by any such agency. Such documentation shall not be required to name or describe the condition that qualifies the person for the exemption.
 - b. Masks shall not be required while eating or drinking.

- c. This order shall supersede and preempt any current or future municipal order whenever such order conflicts with this order.
- d. Any business, nonprofit organization, property owner, healthcare facility or office, or state, regional, or municipal government or agency may require, subject to the exceptions in subsection 1(a) of this order, the universal use of masks or face coverings or require staff to wear masks in settings under their ownership or control, including, but not limited to, healthcare facilities, offices, places of public accommodation, public venues, or public meetings.
- e. Nothing in this order shall limit the authority of the Commissioner of Education or the Commissioner of Early Childhood to issue operational rules, including but not limited to mask or face covering requirements, pursuant to Executive Order No. 9, Section 1.

This order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect through July 20, 2021 unless earlier modified or terminated.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 18th day of May, 2021.



Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command



Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State

