



**CIVIL PREPAREDNESS ORDER NO. 3
OF CITY OF NORWALK MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING
REQUIRING UNIVERSAL MASK OR FACE COVERING IN ALL INDOOR SETTINGS
REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS**

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Mayor of the City of Norwalk, Harry W. Rilling, declared a civil preparedness emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak which remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the increased transmissibility of the Omicron and Delta variants of SARS-COV-2 (the “variants”) and the resulting increase in COVID-19 infections, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) issued guidance recommending that all people, including those who are vaccinated, wear masks in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, as a result of increased infection rates and the higher transmissibility of the variants, all eight of Connecticut’s counties are considered area of high transmission; and

WHEREAS, on the 5th day of August, 2021, Governor Ned Lamont issued Executive Order No. 13A (“State Order 13A”), extended by Executive Order No. 14, pursuant to emergency declaration of the Governor and in accordance with the requirements of Special Act 21-5, which among other things authorized individual municipalities “to require mask or face coverings in indoor settings regardless of vaccination status” pursuant to Sec. 28-8a of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Section 28-8a of the Connecticut General Statutes (the “Statutes”) and Chapter 31 of The Code of the City of Norwalk (the “Code”) authorizes the Mayor of a municipality in which a major disaster or emergency occurs, or his designees, to take such action as he deems necessary to mitigate the major disaster or emergency; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Harry W. Rilling, in reliance on local and state health officials and recent guidance from the CDC, has determined that in order to slow the spread of the variants, protect our residents and those visiting and conducting business within our communities, it is right, proper and consistent with good preventive public health practice to follow the current CDC guidelines on wearing masks or face coverings in indoor setting regardless of vaccination status in order to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and the variants in particular.

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT, due to the above referenced declared civil preparedness emergency from the COVID-19 outbreak:

1. All individuals in the City of Norwalk, except as provided in Section 2, shall be required to wear masks or cloth-face coverings over their mouth and nose at all times while in Public Indoor Settings regardless of vaccination status. Public Indoor Settings includes all indoor places open to the public or which the public is invited, including, but not limited to:

(a) Businesses, inclusive of restaurants and bars, retail stores, gyms, grocery stores and markets, professional buildings and complexes and other commercial establishments;

(b) Museums and historical structures;

(c) Congregate living settings, including nursing homes, senior housing, group housing and shelters; health care facilities;

(d) Indoor entertainment venues, including movie theaters, concerts halls, arenas, or any portion of an outdoor entertainment venue that is indoor, including indoor suites, conference rooms, gathering spaces and restrooms;

(e) Public transportation and waiting areas for public transportation, except for outdoor waiting areas;

(f) Schools, including elementary and secondary schools, technical colleges, two-year colleges and universities; and

(g) Houses of worship.

2. The following persons or places shall be exempt from the requirements of Section 1 of this Order:

(a) Persons currently consuming food or beverage at a restaurant, bar, or venue that services food and/or beverage;

(b) Persons under the age of 2 years;

(c) Persons for whom wearing a mask or cloth-face covering would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition, behavioral condition, or disability (“Medical Exemption”), provided however, any person who claims a Medical Exemption shall be exempt only if such person provides written documentation 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 that he or she is qualified for a Medical Exemption. In no event shall such documentation be required to name or describe the condition that qualifies the person for the Medical Exemption;

(d) Persons who are fully vaccinated and rehearsing for or performing in theater, musical, comedy or other indoor professional artistic productions;

(f) Persons receiving any procedures to the face but only during the period of time necessary to complete the procedure;

(g) Public Indoor Settings in which social distancing of at least 6 feet can be continuously maintained; and

(h) Persons in Public Indoor Settings which are childcare programs, youth camps or public schools covered under operational rules issued by the State of Connecticut's Commissioner of Education or the Commissioner of Early Childhood establishing mask requirements.

3. Any person who fails to wear a mask or cloth-face covering as required by this Order, other than a person who qualifies for an exemption set forth in Section 2 of this Order, shall be guilty of a violation of this Order and fined in accordance with State Order 13A or Section 31-25 of the Code, or both. An employer, rather than the employee, is liable for the fine for any employee's failure to wear a required mask or cloth-face covering while at work.

4. The procedures set forth in Section 51-164n through 51-164r of the Statutes shall apply to any violation of this Order.

5. This Order to which I affix my signature today shall take effect at 5 p.m., December 23, 2021 and remain in effect until the expiration of the State Order 13A, or as may be extended from time to time by the Connecticut General Assembly, or as terminated by the City of Norwalk.

Dated this 23rd day of December, 2021.

By: Harry W. Rilling
Harry W. Rilling
Mayor, City of Norwalk

Attested To:

By: Irene T. Dixon
Irene Dixon
City Clerk, City of Norwalk

SEAL: