



Nilesh Kalyanaraman, MD, FACP  
Health Officer

***ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH***

**ORDER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY**

**FACE COVERINGS**

**WHEREAS**, on January 4, 2022, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., issued a “Declaration of State of Emergency and Existence of Catastrophic Health Emergency – COVID-19,” declaring a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency throughout the State of Maryland due to the rapid resurgence of COVID-19 in Maryland; and

**WHEREAS**, there is continued community transmission of COVID-19 in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis despite the current prevention measures; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a substantial body of evidence supporting the effectiveness of face coverings in preventing transmission by symptomatic, pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and the Maryland Department of Health have recommended the use of face coverings as an effective means to help prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, from December 5, 2021 to January 5, 2022, hospitalizations in Anne Arundel County due to COVID-19 have increased from 53 to 236, an increase of 345%, and patients in intensive care due to COVID-19 have increased from 11 to 37, an increase of 245%; and

**WHEREAS**, during that same time period, the case rate in Anne Arundel County has increased from 22.6 to 167.5 per 100,000 people per day, an increase of 645%; and

**WHEREAS**, during that same time period, the percent positivity rate has increased from 6.17% to 30.32%, an increase of 391%; and

**WHEREAS**, the seven day average ICU occupancy has increased from 69.6% on December 2, 2021, to 86.4% on January 2, 2022, well above the 70% occupancy threshold; and

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**WHEREAS**, from December 30, 2021 to January 6, 2022, Anne Arundel County has experienced 21 deaths from COVID-19, compared to 3 deaths from November 29 to December 5, 2021, an increase of 600%; and

**WHEREAS**, there were 5 deaths from COVID-19 on January 6, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, suppression of cases will support continuing in-person education; and

**WHEREAS**, suppression of cases will strengthen and maintain economic recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, preventing an increase in cases is essential to safeguard the public health;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the proper use of face coverings will help prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, NILESH KALYANARAMAN, MD, FACP, Health Officer for Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis, pursuant to the Health General Article of the Maryland Code, including but not limited to § 18-208, as well as Title 10 of COMAR, including but not limited to 10.06.01.06, finding it necessary for the control and medical containment of COVID-19, an infectious and contagious disease in Anne Arundel County and in the City of Annapolis, hereby orders and directs the following:

1. Except as set forth in paragraph 2 of this Order, all persons over the age of two years in Anne Arundel County and in the City of Annapolis 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;

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(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, an athlete actively engaged in athletics on a field of play, or is 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. The Public Information Officer shall disseminate notice of this Order for Public Safety to the appropriate news media and to the general public.

THIS ORDER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY IS ISSUED THIS 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2022, AND SHALL BE EFFECTIVE AS OF 5:00 P.M. ON JANUARY 7, 2022, AND SHALL CONTINUE IN EFFECT UNTIL TERMINATED BY THE HEALTH OFFICER OR JANUARY 31, 2022, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER.



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Niles Kalyanaraman, MD, FACP  
Health Officer, Anne Arundel County  
and the City of Annapolis