

**County Executive**  
**of**  
**Howard County, Maryland**

**Executive Order: 2021-17**  
**Dated: Decmeber 23, 2021**  
**Subject: Exercise of Emergency Powers –**  
**Indoor Face Covering Requirement for**  
**Businesses and Facilities open to the**  
**public and public transportation**

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, by Executive Order No. 2020-02, pursuant to the authority granted by Howard County Code sections 6.103 and 6.104, I declared a state of emergency in Howard County that remains in effect as authorized by Council Resolution No. 41-2020; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron and Delta variants are rapidly multiplying, positivity rates are in the double digits, and hospitalization rates due to COVID-19 are currently increasing; and

**WHEREAS**, while Howard County has been a state leader with nearly 87 percent of its residents fully vaccinated and 95 percent receiving at least one dose; studies indicate antibodies diminish significantly after six months, increasing the risk for COVID-19. Only 52% of residents have received a booster and breakthrough cases of COVID-19 are increasing due to the presence of variants; and

**WHEREAS**, the contagious nature of the Omicron variant has increased the need to practice basic prevention techniques, such as getting a booster, wearing a face covering, and staying home if you feel ill.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND PROCLAIMED** by the County Executive of Howard County, Maryland, that, in accordance with the authority granted by section 6.104(a) of the Howard County Code and the Howard County Charter, face coverings shall be worn indoors as follows:

- (1) All customers (over the age of nine) and staff shall wear face coverings in the indoor areas open to the public of all businesses, facilities, and places of assembly that are open to the public;
- (2) Adult customers accompanying children age two through nine shall use reasonable efforts to cause those children to wear face coverings while in all indoor areas open to

- the public of any business, facility, or places of assembly; and
- (3) All riders and operators shall wear face coverings on any Public Transportation that operates in Howard County.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, that, for purposes of this Order, a face covering is a covering that fully covers a person's nose and mouth and is secured in place to the head.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, that this requirement shall take effect on Sunday, December 26, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, that:

- (1) This Executive Order shall be promptly publicized; and
- (2) A copy filed with the Administrator to the County Council of Howard County.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I, Calvin B. Ball, as County Executive of Howard County, Maryland, have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Howard County to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2021.



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Calvin Ball  
County Executive

