

RESOLUTION

STRONGLY ENCOURAGING CITIZENS AND VISITORS TO FOLLOW CDC GUIDANCE REGARDING THE MASKING OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF TWELVE (12) AND ENCOURAGING ALL CITIZENS AND VISITORS OVER THE AGE OF TWELVE (12) TO GET VACCINATED AND HEED GUIDELINES OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION IN THE CITY OF CHARLESTON TO REDUCE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 DURING THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND RECOVERY.

WHEREAS, SARS-CoV-2 (Coronavirus) the virus that causes the disease COVID-19 and the surge of the DELTA variant in our community and across the country is a serious health concern especially for school age children; specifically, those who are twelve (12) and under who are currently unable to receive any of the vaccinations that have been approved for emergency use authorization; and

WHEREAS, reported vaccination rates remain among the lowest in the country, with less than 45 percent of eligible South Carolinians fully vaccinated by the end of July, according to the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC); and

WHEREAS, Charleston County has a “high” level of coronavirus transmission as of August 3rd, 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control strongly encourage the use of face coverings for adults and children over two (2) years old and under twelve (12) years old, vaccinations, handwashing and safe social distancing to help control the spread of Coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics released updated guidance for schools August 9, 2021, recommending that all students over 2 years old, along with staff, wear masks, regardless of whether they have been vaccinated against COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that the recent surge in COVID-19 cases is pushing South Carolina’s hospitals to capacity, yet again. Further, that a decrease in adult and childhood vaccinations due to the pandemic, as well as an increase in other viral diseases as people have stopped social distancing and mask wearing, are also contributing to the medical system’s overload; and

WHEREAS, all of those factors have created a veritable “perfect storm” that has strained capacity at local hospitals in Charleston and throughout the State as more adults and children are being diagnosed with COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, causing crowded offices, emergency rooms, floors and intensive care units; and

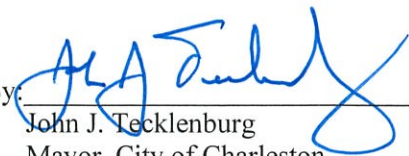
WHEREAS, exemptions for children of a certain age and individuals with disabilities who cannot wear a mask as outlined by the CDC guidelines and health professionals are recognized; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston stands ready and is willing to assist in any way to help facilitate the successful implementation of this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, THAT:

- (1) It is strongly encouraged and recommended that children over the age of two (2) and under the age of twelve (12) wear a mask while in school or indoors in crowds of ten (10) or more within City limits;
- (2) It is strongly encouraged and recommended that any adult, vaccinated or unvaccinated, should wear a mask when in the presence of children over the age of two (2) and under the age of twelve (12) in crowds of ten (10) or more within City limits;
- (3) It is strongly encouraged and recommended that City of Charleston residents and those visiting who are able to wear a mask should properly do so while indoors;
- (4) It is strongly encouraged and recommended that City of Charleston residents and those visiting take further steps to adhere to the guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and
- (5) It is strongly encouraged and recommended that City of Charleston residents and those visiting our City get vaccinated, and that children over the age of two (2) and under the age of twelve (12) be vaccinated as soon as FDA approves and makes available such vaccinations.

RESOLVED this 17th day of August, 2021.

By: 
John J. Tecklenburg
Mayor, City of Charleston

ATTEST: By: 
Jennifer Cook
Clerk of Council