

COBB COUNTY, GA
FILED IN OFFICE

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SECOND RENEWAL OF DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY IN COBB COUNTY
CLERK'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2021, due to Cobb Douglas Public Health (CDPH) reporting a surge in, and high community spread of, COVID-19 delta variant cases in Cobb County, with the majority of hospitalizations being unvaccinated individuals, the Chairwoman issued a Declaration of Emergency activating the County's EOP and encouraging all Cobb County citizens to get vaccinated and to wear masks when indoors in public places so as to reduce the transmission of the virus;

WHEREAS, the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, states that a declaration of emergency shall continue until the chairperson finds that the emergency conditions no longer exist, so long as the declaration of emergency is renewed prior to expiration, Cobb County Code, Sec. 34-2;

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2021, the Chairwoman renewed the Declaration of Emergency for an additional thirty (30) days after finding, in consultation with CDPH, that the emergency condition precipitating the August 19, 2021 Declaration still existed;

WHEREAS, CDPH reports 339 cases per 100,000 in Cobb County, which is three times higher than the "high community transmission" threshold of 100 cases per 100,000;

WHEREAS, Wellstar Kennestone Hospital and Wellstar Cobb Hospital are reporting, respectively, "severe overcrowding" and "busy" in their Emergency Departments;

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2021, President Biden announced the implementation of a six-pronged, comprehensive national strategy – known as the "Path Out of the Pandemic" – to ensure that the United States of America is using every available tool to combat COVID-19 and save more lives in the months ahead, while keeping schools open and safe, and protecting the U.S. economy from lockdowns and damage;

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2021, the Cobb County Board of Health publicly and formally endorsed the following statement:

The Cobb County Board of Health supports the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) current guidance for reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our public and private schools. This current guidance from both national health agencies notes that: 1) All policy considerations for school plans should start with the goal of keeping students safe and physically present in school; 2) All

eligible individuals should receive the COVID-19 vaccine; 3) All students older than 2 years of age and all school staff should wear face masks at school (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use); 4) Schools must continue to take a multi-pronged, layered approach to protect students, teachers, and staff, these interventions include, but are not limited to: vaccination, universal mask use, ventilation, testing, quarantining, and cleaning and disinfecting.

WHEREAS, the current Renewal of the Declaration of Emergency is set to expire on October 17, 2021, unless renewed in accordance with Sec. 34-2;

WHEREAS, the emergency condition that precipitated the August 19, 2021 Declaration of Emergency, and its initial renewal, still exists;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in the Chairwoman by local and state law;

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED that the Declaration of Emergency in Cobb County, which is set to expire on October 17, 2021, shall be renewed for thirty (30) days.

WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1.

In accordance with the continued recommendations of the CDC and CDBH, and for the health and safety of those who remain unable to be vaccinated at this time (*e.g.*, children under the age of 12) who are particularly susceptible to the highly contagious Delta variant, all Cobb County residents are strongly encouraged to get fully vaccinated as soon as possible. To assist in this critical need, all CDPH facilities will continue to provide COVID tests and vaccinations free of charge. CDPH will also continue dispatching an “outreach team” to any location where 20 or more persons are interested in, or willing to, be vaccinated. CDPH will also continue providing in-home vaccinations for home-bound persons.

2.

In accordance with the continued recommendations of the CDC and CDPH, and for the health and safety of those who remain unable to be vaccinated at this time (*e.g.*, children under the age of 12) who are particularly susceptible to the highly contagious Delta variant, all Cobb residents, *including those who are fully vaccinated*, are strongly encouraged to wear masks when indoors in public places so as to reduce the transmission of the virus, particularly the Delta variant. Continuing to recognize that we are partners in the effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Cobb County, all enclosed businesses in the County are, once again, strongly encouraged to re-implement measures requiring masks indoors for the protection of employees and customers.

3.

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, County boards, authorities, committees, and similar bodies are permitted to conduct meetings by teleconference so long as said meetings are conducted in compliance with the Act. *See* O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 *et seq.*

4.

The remaining terms of the August 19, 2021 Declaration of Emergency are hereby adopted by reference.

5.

All provisions of this renewal shall become effective upon signature and shall terminate on November 16, 2021, at 11:59 p.m., unless renewed again by the Chairwoman.

ENTERED at 1:45 p.m. on the 14th of October, 2021.

COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

(COUNTY SEAL)



Lisa Cupid, Chairwoman
Cobb County Board of Commissioners



ATTEST:



Pamela L. Mabry, County Clerk
Cobb County Board of Commissioners