



Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, TN

Legislation Text

File #: RS2021-1123, **Version:** 1

A resolution urging the Metropolitan Public Health Department Chief Medical Director to require masks be worn by all individuals in public indoor spaces.

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated their guidance to recommend that fully vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals to wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission of COVID-19, in light of new evidence concerning the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Nashville and Davidson County is classified as an area of high transmission. As of August 12, 2021, there were 3,754 active cases of COVID-19, a 38% increase over the prior week; and

WHEREAS, new hospital admissions were up over 53% as of August 9, 2021, with the percentage of hospital beds used for COVID and the percentage of ICU beds used for COVID on the rise; and

WHEREAS, less than half of the people in Davidson County are fully vaccinated, putting the majority of Davidson County residents at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19, especially the highly contagious Delta variant; and

WHEREAS, while fully vaccinated people are less likely to become infected with COVID-19, and infections of COVID-19 are usually mild in those who are fully vaccinated, fully vaccinated people can still be infected with the Delta variant and can spread the virus to others; and

WHEREAS, children under the age of 12 are not currently eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, and cases of children contracting COVID-19, along with all other age groups, are on the rise; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons, the Metropolitan Public Health Department Chief Medical Director should require masks be worn by individuals in public indoor spaces, in accordance with recent CDC guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as urging the Metropolitan Public Health Department Chief Medical Director to require masks be worn by all individuals in public indoor settings in Nashville and Davidson County. As set forth in CDC guidance, appropriate masks:

- Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric
- Completely cover the nose and mouth of the wearer
- Fit snugly against the sides of the wearer's face without gaps
- Have nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the Mask
- If a gaiter is worn, two must be worn or it must be folded to make two layers.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.