

Town of Brunswick, Maine



Emergency Proclamation and Order of the Town Manager

The following proclamation and order are issued pursuant to Chapter 2, Division 4 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances of the Town of Brunswick ("Code of Ordinances").

WHEREAS, in the Spring of 2021 the Pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus appeared to be ending with the advent of vaccines and good vaccination rates, but recently, infection rates, new variants, hospitalizations, and deaths from the COVID-19 have been increasing; and

WHEREAS, the risk of COVID-19 transmission from vaccinated individuals to unvaccinated individuals remains unknown; and

WHEREAS, in the two weeks between July 14 and July 28, 2021, the rate of COVID-19 infections in the United States have more than doubled; and

WHEREAS, the rate of COVID-19 infections in the State of Maine has increased significantly to an average number of 67.1 daily cases as of July 27, 2021, an increase of 203.6 percent since July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, most of the new infections in the United States and the State of Maine involve the Delta variant, a highly contagious virus strain; and

WHEREAS, the Delta variant has increased transmission, increased severity of COVID-19 infections, decreased susceptibility to therapeutic agents, and has evaded natural or vaccine-induced immunity; and

WHEREAS, the Delta variant represents 47.6 percent of all sequenced samples collected in July in the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, in response to the Delta variant and the increase in COVID-19 infections, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced on July 27, 2021 that fully vaccinated individuals should wear face coverings in indoor public settings in those areas of the country that are experiencing a substantial or high transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Cumberland County is experiencing substantial transmission of COVID-19 as defined by the CDC; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that face coverings be worn by fully vaccinated individuals in public indoor settings in Cumberland County; and

WHEREAS, Council Chambers, other meeting rooms, and other spaces in Town Hall may not provide sufficient space to distance members of the public, staff, Town Council, or others (i.e. board, commission, or committee members); and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has adopted a policy entitled "Remote Participation in Public Proceedings" as authorized in 1 M.R.S. section 403-B; and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager of Brunswick, Maine, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Town Council, do hereby find that "emergency or urgent issue" exists as defined 1 M.R.S. section 403-B and the Town Council's recently adopted policy entitled "Remote Participation in Public Proceedings."

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in me through the statutes of the State of Maine, the Code of Ordinances, and common law authority to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare in the event of an emergency, I, John S. Eldridge, Town Manager of Brunswick, Maine, after consultation with the Chairperson of the Brunswick Town Council, do hereby find and **PROCLAIM** an emergency exists as defined in section 2-121 of the Code of Ordinances and to respond to this limited emergency hereby **ORDER** that:

1. The Town Council and all members of any public body as defined in the policy entitled "Remote Participation in Public Proceedings" may participate remotely in all public proceedings in accordance with the provisions of that policy.
2. All members of the public, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated shall wear face coverings for entrance to, and at all times within, Town Hall.
3. All employees, and all elected or appointed officials, of the Town of Brunswick, vaccinated or unvaccinated, shall wear face coverings when they are in public spaces within Town Hall.

FURTHER, the provisions of this proclamation and order shall remain in effect until they expire or otherwise terminated.

Issued at Brunswick, Maine this 9th day of August 2021.

/s/
John S. Eldridge, Town Manager

/s/
John M. Perreault, Council Chair