



## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

### PROCLAMATION NUMBER 22 CLS 2021

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*PROMULGATION OF REVISED MITIGATION MEASURES  
STATE OF EMERGENCY – CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)*

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**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, confers upon the President of the Parish of Jefferson powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that the preparations of this parish will be adequate to respond to such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the Parish of Jefferson; and

**WHEREAS**, La. R.S. 29:727(D) empowers the President of the Parish of Jefferson to declare a local disaster or emergency, which shall continue until the President finds that the threat of danger has been dealt with to the extent that emergency conditions no longer exist; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, Proclamation No. 01 CLS 2020 was issued, which declared a state of emergency to exist within and throughout the Parish of Jefferson as a result of the novel coronavirus named SARS-CoV-2 and the respiratory disease known as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, on July 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised its guidance with respect to mask wearing by fully vaccinated individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 29, 2021, Proclamation No. 12 CLS 2021 was issued, which terminated Proclamation No. 11 CLS 2021, re-instituted the requirement that masks or face coverings be worn in unincorporated Jefferson Parish within the common areas of Jefferson Parish government buildings, and continued the suspension of certain Jefferson Parish procurement ordinances with respect to goods and services necessary to respond to the COVID-19 State of Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 2, 2021, Governor John Bel Edwards issued Proclamation No. 137 JBE 2021, which reinstated the statewide mask mandate effective August 4, 2021 in response to the State of Louisiana's rapid increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 3, 2021, Proclamation No. 13 CLS 2021 was issued, which terminated Proclamation No. 12 CLS 2021, instituted the requirement that individuals in unincorporated Jefferson Parish wear a mask or face covering over the nose and mouth when indoors in any place outside of a private residence, and provided for exceptions to the requirement; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 26, 2021, Governor John Bel Edwards issued Proclamation No. 203 JBE 2021, which lifts the statewide face covering requirement for most public settings effective October 27, 2021 in response to a reduction in the number of cases, test percent positivity, and hospitalizations in the State of Louisiana; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 26, 2021, Proclamation No. 21 CLS 2021 was issued, which terminated Proclamation No. 13 CLS 2021; and

**WHEREAS,** the Omicron variant is estimated to account for the majority of new COVID-19 cases in the United States, and threatens to reverse progress previously made regarding the number of cases, test percent positivity, and hospitalizations; and

**WHEREAS,** on December 21, 2021, Governor John Bel Edwards issued Proclamation No. 234 JBE 2021, which extended the State of Louisiana’s COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and modifies the mitigations measures to permit state agencies and department heads to implement a face covering policy which may include a face covering requirement for employees and members of the public; and

**WHEREAS,** testing demand and percent positivity continue to increase and to preserve the health of citizens as well as employees who provide essential services to the residents of Jefferson Parish we must do all that we can to ensure a safe place to work, and in response to these changing circumstances, it is necessary to revise the existing COVID-19 mitigation measures; and

**WHEREAS,** these measures are necessary to protect the health and safety of the people of Jefferson Parish.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, CYNTHIA LEE SHENG,** President of the Parish of Jefferson, by virtue of the authority vested by the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

**SECTION 1:** In addition to any settings or situations where face masks or face coverings are required by order of Governor John Bel Edwards, in unincorporated Jefferson Parish, face masks or face coverings shall be worn in the following situations:

- Upon entering and while present in common areas of Jefferson Parish government buildings, which include: Joseph S. Yenni Building; General Government Building; Charles Odom Building; Jefferson Parish Credit Union; Jefferson Parish Library facilities; Jefferson Parish Recreation Department facilities; Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court; First Parish Court for the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana; Second Parish Court for the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana; and Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court, Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana.
- Upon entering and while present on any public transportation or paratransit vehicles.

**SECTION 2:** The following individuals are exempt from wearing a face mask/covering under the provisions of this order:

- 1) Persons under two years of age. These very young children must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation.
- 2) Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
- 3) Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- 4) Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- 5) Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
- 6) Persons who are exercising their right to vote in a federal, state, or local election.

**SECTION 3:** Enforcement of these requirements will be handled by any authorized law enforcement agency, and the Jefferson Parish Department of Property

Maintenance Zoning/Quality of Life is also hereby empowered to enforce the provisions of this order.

**SECTION 4:** This order shall be effective on December 27, 2021.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have set my hand officially on this 22 day of December, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Lee Sherris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

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**PRESIDENT, PARISH OF JEFFERSON**