



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 85 JBE 2021

**COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY MODIFICATION OF
PROCLAMATION NUMBER 79 JBE 2021
REGARDING FACE COVERINGS**

- WHEREAS,** pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, the Governor declared a public health emergency on March 11, 2020 in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020 in response to the threat posed by COVID-19;
- WHEREAS,** on May 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) updated the guidance regarding face coverings after careful study of the data regarding the efficacy of the FDA-approved Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines;
- WHEREAS,** the guidance provides that fully vaccinated people “no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance,” except in certain limited circumstances;
- WHEREAS,** the updated guidance recommends face covering requirements remain in place for mass or public transit, health care facilities, and correctional institutions;
- WHEREAS,** as of today, 1,556,241 individuals in Louisiana have initiated their vaccine administration and 1,370,923 have completed the vaccine series;
- WHEREAS,** the CDC guidance is just the latest demonstration of the importance and the remarkable success of the COVID-19 vaccines in Louisiana and throughout the world;
- WHEREAS,** in light of the CDC guidance, face coverings will no longer be required for fully vaccinated individuals except in limited circumstances, such as health care facilities, correctional institutions, educational institutions, and public transit;
- WHEREAS,** should there be an increase in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, the percent positivity of testing, or should the number of COVID-19 related hospitalizations threaten the ability of the health care system to properly respond, it may be necessary to reinstate face covering requirements; and
- WHEREAS,** these measures are necessary to protect the health and safety of the people of Louisiana.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct the following changes to Section 3 of 79 JBE 2021 (modifications in bold):

SECTION 3: FACE COVERINGS

- A) Except as provided for in the remaining Subsections of this Section, the statewide face covering mandate is no longer in effect. However, all individuals, especially those most vulnerable, are still strongly encouraged to wear face coverings while interacting with members of the public.
- B) All offices of the State of Louisiana shall continue to allow and encourage all unvaccinated employees and visitors, especially the most vulnerable, to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth. However, face coverings will not be required for entrance.
- C) In accordance with the order issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on January 29, 2021, all individuals shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth while passengers and operators of public conveyances, including airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, buses, taxis, ride-shares, and the corresponding transportation hubs. The CDC order is found at https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Mask-Order-CDC_GMTF_01-29-21-p.pdf.
- D) All early childhood, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary educational institutions in the State of Louisiana shall continue to require all students, employees, and visitors to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth.
- E) **All correctional institutions in the State of Louisiana shall continue to require a face covering over the nose and mouth.**
- F) The requirements in Section 3 (C), (D), and (E) do not apply to the following:
 - 1) Any individual who will not come in contact with any other individual (outside of their immediate household members) or who will be able to maintain strict social distancing of six feet apart from any other individual (outside of their immediate household members);
 - 2) any child under the age of eight, however all children between the ages of two and seven years old are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering in accordance with Subsection (A) of this Section;
 - 3) any individual with a medical condition that prevents the wearing of a face covering;
 - 4) any individual who is consuming food or drinks;
 - 5) any individual seeking to communicate with someone who has or is suspected of having a communication disorder;
 - 6) any individual giving a speech for broadcast or to an audience;
 - 7) any individual temporarily removing his or her face covering for identification purposes;
 - 8) any athlete participating in organized athletic activities; or
 - 9) in groups of 10 or less when all in the group have been fully vaccinated.
- G) All local governing authorities and operators of private businesses and organizations shall retain the authority to issue more restrictive measures than that imposed by the State, including requiring members of the public to wear face coverings while in local governmental buildings and private business establishments.
- H) If a business or organization does not allow entry to a worker, customer, or patron because that person refuses to wear a face covering, and if that worker, customer, or patron enters the premises or refuses to leave the

premises, law enforcement personnel may enforce the trespassing laws and any other laws that the worker, customer, or patron may violate.

Unless otherwise provided in this order, these provisions are effective from Friday, May 14, 2021 to Wednesday, May 26, 2021, or as extended by any subsequent Proclamation, unless terminated sooner.



**ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 14th day of May, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Bel Edwards', is written over a horizontal line.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

SECRETARY OF STATE