



**County Administration**

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**County Administrator**

Verdenia C. Baker

*"An Equal Opportunity  
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Official Electronic Letterhead

**TO:** All Employees, Visitors and Interested Parties

**FROM:** Verdenia C. Baker,  
County Administrator

**DATE:** December 30, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Mask Requirement in County Buildings

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Unfortunately, the surge of Covid-19 in Palm Beach County has elevated our community transmission rate from the moderate level to a high level. The highly contagious Omicron variant is now competing with the Delta variant in the community causing significant absenteeism. In order to continue providing critical government services and for businesses to remain open and viable we must work together to slow the spread. The CDC recommends wearing masks in public indoor settings, and public in areas of substantial or high community transmission regardless of individual vaccination status.

After consulting with the Director of the Florida Department of Health of Palm Beach County, whose data indicates our daily cases, the daily positivity rate and the number of cases per one hundred thousand are on the rise - and in conjunction with the CDC recommendation - **effective 12:01 a.m. on January 3, 2022 facial coverings/masks will be required of employees and the public while in all county owned and leased buildings until further notice.** County Property includes all county owned and county leased buildings where Palm Beach County's offices, divisions, and departments conduct business. Law Enforcement has the authority to issue a trespass warning and remove any individuals not in compliance with this policy. These efforts will assist in protecting the public and county employees as much as possible during this surge. The federal mask requirement for county-operated transit vehicles and in the Palm Beach International Airport remains in effect.

For nearly two years, we have operated and provided services to the residents of Palm Beach County in spite of Covid-19. We are flexible and we continue to pivot when necessary to address the threats and unknown impact of this virus. We are all impacted by the virus through the loss of loved ones, co-workers or people in our community. It is critical we evaluate and take any and all precautionary measures to slow the transmission of Covid-19. I encourage you to get vaccinated and boosted. If you are exposed, please take the time to get tested. Remain steadfast in your handwashing and social distancing efforts.

I thank you all in advance for your cooperation in wearing your facial coverings/masks in county-owned and leased facilities to keep each other healthy and safe.