



**EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 26
PALM BEACH COUNTY COVID-19
EXTENSION OF FACIAL COVERINGS DIRECTIVE**

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory illness caused by a virus that spreads rapidly from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, constitutes a clear and present threat to the lives, health, welfare, and safety of the people of Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring a state of emergency for the State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, pursuant to Section 252.38(3)(a)(5), Florida Statutes, Palm Beach County declared a local State of Emergency due to the Coronavirus pandemic, which has since been extended in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis also issued Executive Order 20-83 directing the State Surgeon General and the State Health Officer to issue a public health advisory for senior persons and persons that have a serious underlying medical condition that places them at a high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 to stay at home. Such conditions include, but are not limited to, chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised status, including those in cancer treatment, and severe obesity; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis has issued a number of subsequent Executive Orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including Executive Order 20-112, a Phase 1: Safe Smart Step-by-Step Plan for Florida's Recovery, under which the Governor re-opened certain businesses, and Executive Order 20-120 which, among other things, served to include Palm Beach County under Phase 1, and Executive Order 20-123, in which the Governor extended and brought all Florida counties into Full Phase 1; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County operated under Phase 1 from May 11, 2020 to September 4, 2020, in accordance with Executive Orders 20-120, 20-123 and Order 20-139. The Phase 1 restrictions allowed indoor seating in restaurants at 50% capacity with appropriate partitioning in place between parties. Outdoor seating and take-out service was permitted; however, bar counters remained closed to seating, and eating at bars within restaurants was not allowed. Bars and nightclubs and certain other business types remain closed in Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, numerous virus control strategies, including but not limited to, restrictions on business operations and events, facial covering and social distancing mandates, cleaning and hygiene requirements, testing, and public education, were employed to slow the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, all Phase 1 businesses in Palm Beach County have been permitted to open subject to various executive and emergency orders requiring cleaning and hygiene protocols, facial coverings, social distancing, and restricted operating hours for businesses serving food and alcohol for on premises consumption, and certain other businesses; and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator issued Emergency Order 2020-012 on June 24, 2020 mandating for a thirty (30) day period, the wearing of facial coverings in all businesses, establishments, and in public spaces. The order also required retail establishments and restaurants to post signage containing information regarding sanitization, social distancing, and facial covering requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has affirmed that cloth face coverings are a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19, citing increased evidence that cloth face coverings help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others; and

WHEREAS, the CDC is recommending the use of face coverings and on July 14, 2020, called on all Americans to wear masks to prevent COVID-19 spread; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2020, in Emergency Order 2020-016, the County Administrator extended Emergency Order 2020-012 for an additional thirty (30) days; and

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2020, in Emergency Order 2020-020, the County Administrator again extended Emergency Order 2020-012 for an additional thirty (30) days; and

WHEREAS, given the above-mentioned interventions, and in consideration of the most current data and indicators related to COVID-19, on September 1, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners determined that it was appropriate to submit a request to Governor Ron DeSantis to move Palm Beach County to Phase 2 in accordance with the *Incremental Phase 2 Re-Opening Plan* recommended by the County Administrator; and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis authorized Palm Beach County to move to Phase 2 of the *Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery*; and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator determined that it was necessary and appropriate to issue an emergency order authorizing additional business re-openings in accordance with the direction of Governor DeSantis and Step 1 of the *Incremental Phase 2 Re-Opening Plan* and Emergency Order 2020-024 was issued for that purpose on September 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Order Number 2020-012, **Additional Directive on Wearing of Facial Coverings**, shall expire on September 22, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. unless extended by subsequent order or Board of County Commissioners action; and

WHEREAS, considering the most current data on COVID-19 spread in Palm Beach County, Southeast Florida, and the entire State of Florida, the CDC recommendations on wearing of facial coverings, and the safe re-opening of additional businesses and public schools, the County Administrator has determined that it is necessary and appropriate to extend Emergency Order Number 2020-012 for an additional thirty (30) days.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED pursuant to Palm Beach County Code Chapter 9, Article II, Section 9-35, as well as the authorities granted to me by Declaration of Emergency issued by Governor DeSantis in Executive Order 20-52, by Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, by the Board of County Commissioners, by the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, and as otherwise provided by law, I hereby order as follows:

1. **Recitals.** The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated herein by reference.
2. **Extension.** Executive Order 2020-012 is hereby extended until 12:01 a.m. on October 22, 2020.
3. **Conflicts.** Any provision(s) within this Order that conflict(s) with any state or federal law or constitutional provision, or conflict(s) with, or are superseded by, a current or subsequently-issued Executive Order of the Governor or the President of the United States, shall be deemed inapplicable and deemed to be severed from this Order, with the remainder of the Order remaining intact and in full force and effect. To the extent application of some or all of the provisions of this Order is prohibited on the sovereign land of a federally or state recognized sovereign or Indian tribe, such application is expressly excluded from this Order. The provisions of this Order shall supersede the specific provisions of any previously issued County Emergency Order that is contrary to or in conflict with this Order.
4. **Effective Date.** This Order shall be effective as of 12:01 a.m. on September 22, 2020.

PALM BEACH COUNTY

By: *Vendemia C. Baker*
County Administrator

9/21/2020
Date

**APPROVED AS TO
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY**

By: *Denise Marie Nieman*
County Attorney

ATTEST

CLERK & COMPTROLLER

By: *Shawn R. Beck*