

IN THE CITY OF GULFPORT
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HARRISON COUNTY
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COVID-19 EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12

**EMERGENCY MAYORAL PROCLAMATION OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER REGARDING CONTINUING EFFORTS
TO COMBAT THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN THE CITY OF
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF THE
GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1551**

WHEREAS, in accordance with authority vested in me by Mississippi Law, including, but not limited to, Miss. Code Ann. § 45-17-1, et seq. and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-17, et seq., as amended, and in the public interest of the City of Gulfport, and to safeguard and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and for the protection of life and property, I declared a state of emergency on March 14, 2020, and issued an “Emergency Proclamation of Executive Order” on March 20, 2020, in an effort to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the City of Gulfport, and such Emergency Proclamation has been followed by the issuance of several additional “Emergency Proclamation of Executive Orders” since that time, including a “Safer-at-Home” Order (“COVID-19 Executive Order No. 2”) issued on March 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Mississippi’s “Emergency Management Act” (Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-1, et seq.), and following the issuance of a State-wide declaration of emergency and the date of my first Emergency Mayoral Proclamation, the Governor of the State of Mississippi has issued multiple State-wide “Executive Orders” applicable to municipalities and their residents, including “Executive Order No. 1466” issued on April 1, 2020, as a “Shelter in Place” Order, “Executive Order No. 1477” issued on April 24, 2020, as part of his “Safer-at-Home” effort for the State, and “Executive Order No. 1492” issued on May 28, 2020, in conjunction with his “Safe Return” Order, and “Executive Order No. 1525” issued on September 30, 2020, in conjunction with his “Safe Recovery” Order; and

WHEREAS, in response to significant increases of reported cases of COVID-19 following around when Executive Order No. 1525 was introduced, the Governor issued several additional and other Executive Orders in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus while still allowing businesses and non-profits as well as schools to continue to operate within the State, including Executive Order Nos. 1535 and 1536 on December 9, 2020, and which effort included the requirement of face coverings in conjunction with certain facilities and functions and areas (to include Harrison County, Mississippi and the City of Gulfport), with such requirements being in place until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021; and

WHEREAS, in response to a noted sharp decline in COVID-19 infections and resulting hospitalizations and the State-wide roll out of vaccinations that followed, the Governor issued

Executive Order No. 1549 on March 2, 2021, which rescinded and repealed Executive Order Nos. 1535 and 1536 (and their amendments) effective at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, and which eased most of the former public health measures contained in prior Executive Orders issued by the Governor in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2021, and in response to the Governor's Executive Order No. 1549, the undersigned authority, for and on behalf of the City of Gulfport, issued an Emergency Proclamation of Executive Order ("COVID-19 Executive Order No. 11") that, among other things, required face coverings for persons inside City buildings and facilities; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2021, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 1551, which, among other things, rescinded and repealed the Governor's prior Executive Order No. 1549, as amended and extended by his Executive Order No. 1550; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 1551 no longer requires facial coverings with respect to any building, facility or activity in the State, with the exception of persons inside school buildings or classrooms for the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic year, and does not place any capacity restrictions with respect to any venue or use; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 1551 is in effect from and after 5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2021, and until or unless it be amended or rescinded; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the findings set out in the Governor's Executive Orders, including Executive Order No. 1551, the fact that there has been a noted sharp decline in COVID-19 infections and resulting hospitalizations in the area since at least mid-February 2021, and the fact that the vaccine roll-out is continuing to proceed as expeditiously as possible with adequate vaccine supply available to ensure every resident in our City and County who want to receive the COVID-19 vaccine may do so, I find that a need for an Emergency Mayoral Proclamation to preserve and protect life, property, and good order as well as to safeguard and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public is not needed beyond adoption and incorporation of the Governor's Executive Order No. 1551 at this time; and

THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Mississippi Law, including, but not limited to, Miss. Code Ann. § 45-17-1, et seq. and Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-17, et seq., as amended, and in the public interest of the City of Gulfport, and to safeguard and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and for the protection and preservation of life and property and good order, I do hereby issue this Emergency Mayoral Proclamation of Executive Order (also referred to as "Proclamation") as set out herein.


IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that those conditions, restrictions, regulations, and requirements issued previously by the Governor of the State of Mississippi, and which presently still have application to residents and visitors of the City of Gulfport, are hereby adopted and incorporated as those of my "Emergency Mayoral Proclamation of Executive Order" for the City of Gulfport and shall, if not already in effect, take effect as of **5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2021**, unless specifically in conflict with any of the following provisions herein. It is further,

ORDERED, that unless otherwise excepted herein, *members of the public shall no longer be required to wear a face covering inside a City building or indoor facility* in the City of Gulfport at this time, in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order No. 1551. As stated in Executive Order No. 1551, all persons within the City are encouraged to follow the CDC's and Mississippi State Department of Health's guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is further,


ORDERED that this Proclamation of Executive Order shall be: (1) filed with the City Clerk; (2) distributed to the news media and other organizations reasonably calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; and (3) distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this Proclamation of Executive Order. It is further,

ORDERED that, except for what is otherwise set out herein, this Emergency Mayoral Proclamation of Executive Order shall be, and hereby is, effective at **5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2021**, and shall remain in effect until amended, rescinded, or superseded by another applicable Mayoral Proclamation or Executive Order or the termination of the current (and ongoing) State of Emergency related to this pandemic issued by the City of Gulfport, whichever shall occur first.

THIS, the 3RD day of May, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.


MAYOR BILLY HEWES
CITY OF GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

ATTEST:


DEPUTY CITY CLERK
CITY OF GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI