

COBB COUNTY, GA.  
FILED IN OFFICE

2021 AUG 19 P 5:29

COBB COUNTY  
CLERK'S OFFICE

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY IN COBB COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) a National Public Health Emergency in March 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Georgia declared a State Public Health Emergency in Georgia in March 2020, which remained in place through July 1, 2021, and declared a State of Emergency for Continued COVID-19 Economic Recovery on June 30, 2021, which is ongoing; and

**WHEREAS**, the former Chairman of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners declared a Local Emergency on March 24, 2020, which was extended through April 24, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, since the virus appeared in Cobb County in 2020, there have been 85,902 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County and 1,137 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, in December 2020, the FDA authorized emergency use of three COVID-19 vaccines in the United States: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and J&J/Janssen; and,

**WHEREAS**, following implementation of the vaccines, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Cobb County was steadily trending downward; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 27, 2021, the CDC released updated guidance due to a noticeable spike in the number of reported COVID-19 cases across the country, which evidenced a reversal in the downward trajectory that had been seen since implementation of the COVID-19 vaccines; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC's updated guidance reported that a new variant – the Delta variant – has become the predominant strain of the virus in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the CDC, the Delta variant is nearly twice as contagious as previous variants and may cause more severe illness than previous strains in unvaccinated persons; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the CDC, unvaccinated people remain the greatest concern because the greatest risk of transmission of the Delta variant is among unvaccinated people; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the CDC, fully-vaccinated people with Delta variant breakthrough infections can spread the virus to others, though vaccinated people appear to be infectious for a shorter period; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC reports that vaccines in the US are proving to be highly effective, including against the Delta variant; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC reports that layered prevention strategies, such as masking indoors in public places, are needed to reduce the transmission of the Delta variant; and

**WHEREAS**, Cobb Douglas Public Health (CDPH) reports a new surge of COVID-19 cases, and high community spread, in Cobb County that is comprised primarily of the Delta variant; and

**WHEREAS**, CDPH reports that County hospitalizations for COVID 19 are 800% higher than they were before the latest surge, and that critical care beds are “critically low” and medical surgical beds are “low”; and,

**WHEREAS**, CDPH reports that the 14-day case rate for the County is 649/100,000, which is more than 6 times higher than the 100/100,000 threshold signifying “high community transmission”; and,

**WHEREAS**, Cobb County has a COVID positive rate of 12.5% (out of total COVID-19 tests taken) and a positivity rate over 5% is considered too high;

**WHEREAS**, the national goal for vaccination was set at 70%, but only 55% of persons in the County have received their first dose vaccination and 49% have received a second dose;

**WHEREAS**, CDPH reports that the majority of COVID-19 hospitalizations in the County are unvaccinated individuals, including children under the age of 12; and

**WHEREAS**, the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, grants the chairperson of the board of commissioners authority to declare an emergency for the unincorporated area of the county in the event of an actual or threatened emergency, which may result in the large-scale loss of life, injury, property damages or destruction, or in the major disruption of routine community affairs, business or governmental operations in the county and which is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant extraordinary assistance by federal, state and local departments and agencies to supplement the efforts of available public and private resources, Cobb County Code, Sec. 34-2; and

**WHEREAS**, following a declaration of emergency and during the continuance of such state of emergency, the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, authorizes the chairperson to implement local emergency measures to protect life and property or to bring the emergency situation under control, including but not limited to effectuating Sec. 34-7 of the County Code, Cobb County Code, Sec. 34-2; and

**WHEREAS**, medical professionals have cautioned that if COVID-19 (particularly the Delta variant) continues to spread in Cobb County and the rest of Georgia at the rate it has been spreading in recent days, the healthcare system could face a strain on critical resources; and

**WHEREAS**, in the judgment of the Chairwoman, with advice from the Cobb & Douglas Board of Health (CDBH) and Cobb Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), public health emergency conditions have re-emerged in unincorporated Cobb County requiring renewed corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Cobb County; and

**WHEREAS**, the most critical tools for combating the more-contagious and more-infectious Delta variant in areas of substantial or high transmission, like Cobb County, are (1) to increase COVID-19 vaccination coverage, and (2) wear a mask in public indoor places, even if fully vaccinated; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 17, 2021, Cobb's County Manager, Dr. Jackie McMorris, re-implemented a mask mandate (regardless of vaccination status), screening, and social distancing protocols for county employees and members of the public entering county-owned and/or operated indoor facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the County's District Health Director, Dr. Janet Memark, has advised the Chairwoman that she agrees that this Declaration of Emergency is necessary to protect the health and well-being of the citizens of Cobb County;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in the Chairwoman by local and state law;

**IT IS HEREBY DECLARED** that the local state of emergency exists in Cobb County and shall terminate on **September 17, 2021**, unless renewed by the Chairwoman;

**WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

1.

In accordance with the recommendations of the CDC and CDBH, and for the health and safety of those who are unable to be vaccinated at this time (*e.g.*, children under the age of 12) who are particularly susceptible to the highly contagious Delta variant, all Cobb County residents are strongly encouraged to get fully vaccinated as soon as possible. To assist in this critical need, all CDPH facilities are providing COVID tests and vaccinations free of charge. CDPH is also committed to dispatching an "outreach team" to any location where 20 or more persons are interested in, or willing to, be vaccinated. CDPH is also committed to providing in-home vaccinations for home-bound persons.

2.

In accordance with the recommendations of the CDC and CDPH, and for the health and safety of those who are unable to be vaccinated at this time (*e.g.*, children under the age of 12) who are particularly susceptible to the highly contagious Delta variant, all Cobb residents, *including those who are fully vaccinated*, are strongly encouraged to wear masks when indoors in public places so as to reduce the transmission of the virus, particularly the Delta variant. Recognizing that we are partners in the effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Cobb County, all enclosed businesses in the County are strongly encouraged to re-implement measures requiring masks indoors for the protection of employees and customers.

3.

Pursuant to Section 34-2 of the Cobb County Code, this Declaration of Emergency hereby automatically activates the County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and authorizes the deployment of personnel and use of any forces to which the plan applies and for use or distribution of any supplies, equipment, materials, and facilities assembled, stockpiled or arranged to be made available pursuant to the Georgia Emergency Management Act or any other laws applicable to emergencies or disasters.

4.

This Declaration of Emergency in Cobb County is not intended to and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable in law or equity by any party against Cobb County, its officials, employees, or agents. County employees will continue to be provided separate detailed written guidance vaccine and mask recommendations or requirements.

ENTERED at 5:27 p.m. on August, 2021.

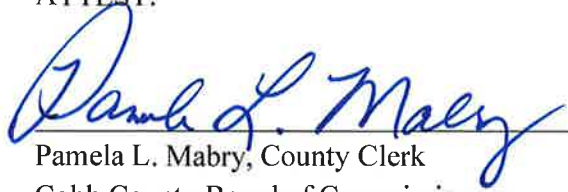
COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

(COUNTY SEAL)

  
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Lisa Cupid, Chairwoman  
Cobb County Board of Commissioners



ATTEST:



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Pamela L. Mabry, County Clerk  
Cobb County Board of Commissioners