



**CITY OF NEWARK** NO. MEO-22-0002  
**EXECUTIVE ORDER** DATE: 2/17/22  
(AMENDED)

**EXECUTIVE ORDER CONTINUING THE WEARING OF FACE MASKS WHILE INDOORS WITHIN THE CITY OF NEWARK THROUGH MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022, ENDING THE VACCINE MANDATE FOR ENTRANCE INTO CERTAIN INDOOR ESTABLISHMENTS AND FACILITIES EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022, AND REQUIRING VACCINATION OR NEGATIVE TEST RESULTS FOR INDOOR EVENTS, PARTIES OR GATHERINGS OF 250 PEOPLE OR MORE.**

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic, including the exponential spread of its Omicron variant, threatens the health and welfare of residents, workers, and visitors and threatens to overwhelm our hospital capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 23 months after the World Health Organization declared a pandemic and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and I declared a Public Health Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 79.6 million persons in the United States have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and more than 949,000 have died from the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, since March 18, 2020, I signed over thirty-six (36) Executive Orders setting forth restrictions and protocols in our effort to stem the spread of COVID-19, and to provide some economic relief to Newark businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, although the SARS-Co -2 virus strain, commonly referred to as the Delta variant, has been the more dominant and deadly strain in the United States during most of the pandemic, the Omicron variant has surpassed the Delta variant as it is more contagious and therefore is spreading more rapidly through our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the science and medical guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) and experts in the health field state that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 appear to be protected against the Delta and Omicron variants in that they are less likely to experience serious illness, hospitalization and death; and

**WHEREAS**, the science and health experts, including our own Director of Health and Community Wellness, have repeatedly warned that people who are not vaccinated are at a greater risk to contract COVID-19 and its variants, and are at greater risk to suffer serious illness, hospitalization and even death from the virus; and

**WHEREAS** for the period February 6, 2022 through February 12, 2022, the City of Newark's COVID-19 test positivity rate was 4.6 percent, which is progressively lower than prior weeks, and therefore is trending in the right direction; and

**WHEREAS**, the virus, particularly the Omicron variant, had been spreading rapidly among residents and visitors, but in recent weeks, transmission of the virus appears to have tapered; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the decreased COVID-19 positivity rate and the decrease in the number of individuals who have tested positive for the virus, we can begin to scale back on our COVID-19 mandatory requirements.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY RAS J. BARAKA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY THAT:**

I. Effective Thursday, February 17, 2022, mandatory proof of vaccination is no longer required for entry into the establishments and facilities identified in Executive Order MEO-22-0001.

1. Attendees to indoor events, parties or gatherings with 250 or more people, are required to show either proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result (rapid or PCR test taken within 48 hours before the event) for admittance.
2. Proper air flow and ventilation is required in all establishments and facilities.

II. Continued Indoor Mask Requirement.

1. The City of Newark shall continue to require all City residents and visitors to wear a mask at all times while indoors at any public facility in the City of Newark through Monday, February 28, 2022. Children under the age of two (2) years old are not required to wear a mask.
2. Any individual who knowingly violates the mask requirement shall be subject to fines and penalties.

III. Violations.

1. Any individual who knowingly chooses not to wear a mask while indoors at any public facility in Newark shall be subject to fines and penalties.

This Executive Order shall take effect on Thursday, February 17, 2022 and supersedes all inconsistent Executive Orders. The City will evaluate the impact and effect of this Executive Order on the change in the COVID-19 positivity rate on Monday, February 28, 2022.

**The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.**

**Separate Signature Page to Follow.**