

**ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2021-18
REGARDING COVID-19**

**Reopening Orange County
And
Requiring Social Distancing and Face Coverings**

Date: April 28, 2021
Time: 10:39 AM

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, I issued Emergency Executive Order 2020-01 declaring a State of Local Emergency under the provisions of Chapter 2, Article IX, Orange County Code, due to the serious public health threat posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2020 and May 18, 2020, I issued Emergency Executive Orders 2020-12 and 2020-16, respectively, regarding Reopening Orange County and Requiring Social Distancing and Face Coverings, which included minimum safety standards for businesses; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2020, I issued Emergency Executive Order 2020-25 Regarding COVID-19 and Requiring Face Coverings; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2020, Orange County began sending its Business Compliance Teams, consisting of representatives from Orange County Code Enforcement, Orange County Fire Rescue, and the Florida Department of Health in Orange County, into the community to educate and assist local businesses in implementing and complying with Orange County's minimum standards for businesses; and

WHEREAS, Orange County offers local businesses personal protective equipment ("PPE") and signage that reminds people to wear facial coverings and practice social distancing. Orange County provides PPE and signage when its Business Compliance Teams visit local businesses and publishes the minimum standards for businesses with information about its PPE and signage resources online at <http://www.ocfl.net/EmergencySafety/Coronavirus/Coronavirus-BusinessResources.aspx>; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2020, the Governor of Florida issued Executive Order Number 20-244 which moves the State of Florida into Phase 3 of its reopening plan;

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2020, I issued Emergency Executive Order 2020-51 Regarding COVID-19, Reopening Orange County and Requiring Social Distancing and Face Coverings; and

WHEREAS, on December 29, 2020, Orange County began providing COVID-19 vaccinations to senior citizens and incrementally expanded vaccination eligibility to April 5, 2021 when Orange County began providing COVID-19 vaccinations to people sixteen (16) years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, currently over seventy-percent (70%) of Orange County's senior citizens have been fully vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance for K-12 schools to reduce its physical distancing recommendation from six (6) feet to three (3) feet with universal masking; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and other public health experts have recently updated their social distancing and face covering guidelines especially as they relate to outdoor activities and fully vaccinated people; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 2, Article IX, Orange County Code, empowers the Director of Emergency Management to exercise certain emergency powers via executive order during a state of local emergency; and

WHEREAS, this Emergency Executive Order updates Orange County's social distancing and face covering requirements pursuant to Orange County's vaccination progress and recommendations from public health experts.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jerry L. Demings, County Mayor of Orange County, Florida, acting as the Director of Emergency Management, promulgate the following Emergency Executive Order:

Section 1. Gatherings. This Emergency Executive Order supersedes Section 1(a) of Emergency Executive Order No. 2020-12. All persons in Orange County should avoid congregating in large groups and should maintain a distance of at least three (3) feet in between persons.

Section 2. Face Coverings Required. This Emergency Executive Order supersedes Section 2(b) of Emergency Executive Order No. 2020-12 and Sections 2(a) and 2(c) of Emergency Executive Order No. 2020-25.

(a) Both employees and patrons of businesses that require employees and patrons to be within three (3) feet must wear a face covering, unless the wearing of the patron's face covering would impede the patron's service, in which case only the service provider must wear a face covering.

(b) Every person working, living, visiting, or doing business in Orange County is required to wear a face covering consistent with the guidelines herein while in an indoor place that is open to the public.

(c) Every person working, living, visiting, or doing business in Orange County is required to wear a face covering while in an outdoor place that is open to the public consistent with the current CDC guidelines.

Section 2. Minimum Standards for Businesses and Places of Assembly. This Emergency Executive Order supersedes: Section 2(a) of Emergency Executive Order No. 2020-12 and Sections 2(a), 2(b), and 2(d) of Emergency Executive Order No. 2020-51. All businesses authorized to operate under the Governor's Executive Orders may continue to operate under this Emergency Executive Order. All businesses that have on-site operations must comply with the following minimum standards:

(a) All persons, employees, patrons, and participants must practice social distancing by staying at least three (3) feet apart.

(b) Businesses shall ensure that all persons, employees, patrons, and participants on its premises practice social distancing by keeping a minimum distance of three (3) feet apart to the maximum extent possible. Nothing in this Emergency Executive Order shall be construed as limiting a restaurant's indoor capacity as described by Section 3 of the Governor's Executive Order No. 20-244.

(c) Businesses shall ensure that employees wear face coverings in the workplace when within three (3) feet of someone else and when required by Orange County Emergency Executive Order No. 2020-25, as superseded by this Emergency Executive Order. Businesses shall require customers, clients, and other visitors to the establishment to wear face coverings in accordance with Orange County Emergency Executive Order No. 2020-25, as superseded by this Emergency Executive Order.

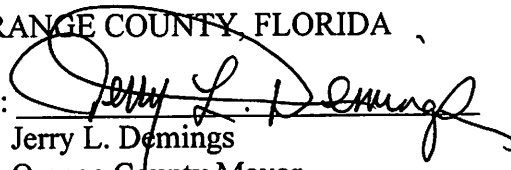
(d) Businesses shall monitor its checkout points and staging areas, including storefronts, for social distancing requirements by marking floors or taking other similar actions to maintain a three (3) foot distance between patrons and employees. Businesses shall institute measures to physically separate and increase distance between employees and patrons by installing partitions or barrier shields made of plexiglass, plastic, or other similar substance.

Section 3. Applicability, Severability, and Conflict. This Emergency Executive Order is issued in addition to the Executive Orders issued by Governor Ron DeSantis. Any provision(s) within this Emergency Executive Order that conflict(s) with any State or Federal law or constitutional provisions, or conflict(s) with or is 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 Emergency Executive Order, with the remainder of this Emergency Executive Order remaining intact and in full force and effect. In the event of any conflicts between the CDC's guidance and this Emergency Executive Order, this Emergency Executive Order shall govern. This Emergency Executive Order applies to incorporated and unincorporated Orange County and supersedes and replaces any conflicting provisions of prior Orange County emergency executive orders.

Section 4. Effective Date; Expiration Date. This Emergency Executive Order shall become effective immediately. This Emergency Executive Order will remain in effect throughout the state of local emergency declared pursuant to COVID-19, unless earlier rescinded.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

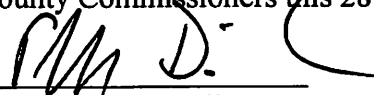
By:



Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor

RECEIVED AND FILED in the office of the Orange County Comptroller as Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners this 28th day of April 2021, at 10:39 o'clock A.M.

By:



~~Deputy~~ Comptroller