

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE SYSTEM

Mayor's Order 2021-096

July 24, 2021

SUBJECT: End of Public Health Emergency and Extension of Public Emergency

ORIGINATING AGENCY: Office of the Mayor

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the District of Columbia pursuant to section 422 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973, Pub. L. 93-198, 87 Stat. 790, D.C. Official Code § 1-204.22 (2016 Repl.); section 5 of the District of Columbia Public Emergency Act of 1980, effective March 5, 1981, D.C. Law 3-149, D.C. Official Code § 7-2304 (2018 Repl.); section 5a of the District of Columbia Public Emergency Act of 1980, effective October 17, 2002, D.C. Law 14-194, D.C. Official Code § 7-2304.01 (2018 Repl.); and section 1 of An Act To Authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to make regulations to prevent and control the spread of communicable and preventable diseases, approved August 11, 1939, 53 Stat. 1408, D.C. Official Code §§ 7-131 *et seq.* (2018 Repl.); and in accordance with the Coronavirus Support Emergency Amendment Act of 2021, effective March 17, 2021, D.C. Act 24-30, the Coronavirus Public Health Extension Emergency Amendment Act of 2021, effective May 10, 2021, D.C. Act 24-79, and the Public Emergency Extension and Eviction and Utility Moratorium Phasing Emergency Amendment Act of 2021, Bill 24-345, signed by the Mayor on July 24, 2021, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

I. BACKGROUND

1. The findings of prior Mayor's Orders relating to the COVID-19 public emergencies are hereby incorporated into this Order.
2. Almost 18 months after the World Health Organization declared a pandemic and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Mayor of the District of Columbia declared a public health emergency for the 2019 novel coronavirus, more than 34.3 million Americans have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and more than 610,000 have died from the disease. Locally, transmission stands at a seven-day average of 5.9 new daily cases per 100,000 persons; total infections in the District have risen to 49,930; and tragically, 1,146 District residents have lost their lives due to COVID-19.
3. The District continues to assess the prevalence and impact of new, more transmissible SARS-CoV-2 variants, such as the Delta variant, on the progress we have made through various public health measures, including the District's vaccination program.

4. The spread of COVID-19 remains a serious threat to individuals who are not vaccinated. Masks and physical distancing are still important tools for reducing risk of COVID-19 for unvaccinated persons, persons who are immunosuppressed, and persons living or working in certain settings. Residents, workers, and visitors have a personal obligation to be vaccinated as soon as possible and to abide by the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health) guidance on mask wearing to protect themselves and those they interact with personally and professionally.
5. COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective in real world settings, including against SARS-CoV-2 variants currently circulating in the United States and the region. To date, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 70% of District residents aged 12 and older have received at least one dose of an approved vaccine; and almost 85% of District residents aged 65 and older have received at least one vaccination dose.
6. The increased vaccination of District residents, workers, and visitors; the universal access to the vaccine in the Washington, DC region; and the declining incidence of COVID-19 case rates allowed the District to ease many of the emergency restrictions put in place as a result of the public emergency and public health emergency. However, increases in case rates or hospitalizations may necessitate re-imposition of restrictions.
7. The increased vaccination rates and improving health metrics related to COVID-19 in the District warrant the end of the public health emergency as of July 25, 2021.
8. However, given the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and the recovery efforts associated with those impacts, including efforts related to the economy, education, and public safety, it remains necessary that the District remain in a public emergency to continue to authorize government actions to modify procedures, deadlines, and standards authorized during this declared emergency and to thoughtfully and safely respond to COVID-19 and its ongoing impacts.
9. Therefore, this Mayor's Order extends the COVID-19 public emergency until October 8, 2021.

II. END OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

As a result of increased vaccination rates and improving health metrics related to COVID-19, the public health emergency declared by Mayor's Order 2020-046, dated March 11, 2020, and most recently extended by Mayor's Order 2021-069, dated May 17, 2021, shall terminate at 12:01 a.m. on July 25, 2021.

III. EXTENSION OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY AND CONTINUATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES AND REQUIREMENTS UNDER PUBLIC EMERGENCY

1. The COVID-19 public emergency declared by Mayor's Order 2020-045, dated March 11, 2020, is hereby extended until October 8, 2021.
2. In accordance with Mayor's Order 2020-045, dated March 11, 2020, and its subsequent extensions, the City Administrator, in consultation with the directors of the Department of Health and the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency ("HSEMA"), remain authorized to implement any measures as may be necessary or appropriate to protect persons and property in the District of Columbia from the impacts of COVID-19, including the economic and other consequences of both the disease and the measures taken to stop its spread.
3. Such measures may include all actions authorized under D.C. Official Code § 7-2304(b) and other Mayor's Orders and instructions from the City Administrator's Office and emergency response team to date, including but not limited to:
 - a. Requesting federal disaster assistance, and federal relief and recovery grants and accessing all federal programs relating to the emergency;
 - b. Entering into or continuing participation in any programs, agreements, and/or contracts, including on an emergency basis, whose primary purpose is to assist in responding to the effects of COVID-19;
 - c. Exercising operational control over all District government agencies and departments;
 - d. Maintaining partial or full activation of the District's Emergency Operations Center ("EOC"), including personnel detailed to the EOC by other agencies, at the discretion of the City Administrator, in consultation with the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice and the HSEMA Director;
 - e. Maintaining, as needed, sites for isolation and quarantine and emergency programs for medically vulnerable individuals; and
 - f. Continuing to issue guidance to agencies, businesses, and organizations to aid them in maintaining safe operations.


4. Sections I-III of Mayor's Order 2020-065 mandating the use of OCTO-approved technology for virtual meetings shall remain in place, notwithstanding the end of the public health emergency.
5. Any existing delegations of emergency response measures, such as those outlined in Mayor's Order 2020-079, dated July 22, 2020, and grantmaking authority provided by Mayor's Orders 2020-094, dated September 16, 2020, and 2020-122, dated December 3, 2020, and 2021-033 and 2021-034, dated March 9, 2021, shall remain in effect unless otherwise noted herein.

IV. SUPERSESSION


This Order supersedes Mayor's Order 2021-069, dated May 17, 2021, and any other prior Mayor's Order issued during the COVID-19 public emergency and public health emergency, to the extent of any inconsistency.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE AND DURATION

This Order shall be effective on Sunday, July 25, 2021, at 12:01 a.m., unless otherwise noted herein, and shall continue to be in effect through the duration of the public emergency, or until this Order is repealed, modified, or superseded.



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

ATTEST: 

KIMBERLY A. BASSETT
SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA