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September 22, 2020 4:36 PM

Stay the Course: Masks Still Required in City Buildings

Effective Monday, May 24, the City will no longer require temperatures taken or ask health screening questions of the public when they visit for in-person services. It will be expected that people do their own self-screening prior to entering any City buildings and that they not visit if they are not feeling well.

Masks will still be required to be worn, even for those individuals who have been vaccinated. City staff that interact with the public will also be required to wear masks, even if they are vaccinated. City Hall and City buildings will still only be open to the public for limited services. The Treasury Office (auto/boat registration and property taxes) will continue to operate by appointment only, while the City Clerk's Office (birth/death/marriage & elections/voting) and the Parking Office will serve walk-in customers from the basement level of City Hall, accessible via the Myrtle Street entrance. All other City services will continue to operate virtually, online, and via email. City officials will reassess in the next month or two about plans to fully reopen buildings to the public.

"Our updated guidance is based on keeping our employees safe, while also continuing to provide essential city services and transactions for the public," said Jessica Grondin, spokesperson for the City. "We're asking the public to please be patient and kind as we continue to stay the course, with the understanding that this is an interim step in the right direction. And we ask you to use that same kindness and understanding when visiting other retailers and places of business who have also decided to continue to require some level of safety measures. While we look forward to the time when we can be back to our buildings being fully open, we will only do that when it is entirely safe to do so."

The City has also updated its employee protocols, effective May 24, related to masks and health screenings. These policies vary based on whether or not the employee has been vaccinated, whether or not they interact with the public in-person, and whether or not they work inside or outside. The policies also vary by department, such as those who work in public safety, emergency shelters, healthcare facilities, or the Jetport.

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