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Masks to be required for all those entering Louisville Metro Government buildings, including Metro employees

July 30, 2021

In response to the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases driven by the highly contagious Delta variant, effective Monday Aug. 2, 2021, Louisville Metro Government will require masks to be worn in city buildings and vehicles when another person is present. The new policy applies to every person regardless of vaccination status.

Louisville is in the “orange” alert status, with a two-week average daily incidence rate of 12.5 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people, after several weeks in the “yellow.” In the past three weeks alone, COVID-19 cases in the community have tripled with 672 new cases reported the week of July 24. With this trend, city officials anticipate reaching “red” alert status by Monday.

“We’re at a point we’d hoped to avoid through vaccines, which are safe, highly effective at stopping serious illness and death from COVID-19, and widely available at over 100 locations throughout Louisville,” Mayor Fischer said. “This is an urgent step to halt this pandemic of the unvaccinated, and our community must once again work together so that we can we move forward — not backward — against this dastardly virus.”

The Mayor urged other Louisville employers to also recommend masking to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect people who cannot be vaccinated, including children 12 and younger who will be returning to classrooms in the coming weeks.

“It has never been more important to get our entire community vaccinated and we encourage the business community to continue incentivizing vaccination for employees and patrons in creative ways,” said Sarah Davasher-Wisdom, president and CEO of Greater Louisville Inc. “While we remain confident in the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines, given recent developments with the Delta variant, we encourage businesses to institute masking and mitigation efforts when possible to ensure we can keep our economy fully open while we work toward herd immunity.”

From the beginning of the pandemic, Louisville has recorded 84,747 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,333 deaths. To date, 47.2% of Louisville residents are fully vaccinated and 55.5% of residents have received at least one shot.

“We need to do what we can to protect our Metro staff and citizens while they access government in our Metro buildings,” said Metro Council President David James. “Fighting the speed of COVID-19 saves lives and keeps people healthy. Please get vaccinated.”

Mayor Fischer and Louisville Metro Public Health & Wellness leaders said vaccinations are the best tool for stemming the sudden spike in cases, and urged people to speak with their doctors, pharmacists or vaccinated loved ones about their concerns.

“With the rapid increase in COVID cases due to the highly contagious Delta variant, the health department is aligning with CDC guidance for universal indoor mask-wearing regardless of vaccination status,” Dr. SarahBeth Hartlage, Interim Medical Director of Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness said. “We’ve seen how problematic this virus is and we are taking the necessary precautions

to ensure we protect our employees, staff and residents.”

More information about COVID-19 vaccination locations can be found at louisvilleky.gov in the COVID-19 Resource Center or by calling the LOU Health Helpline at 502-912-8598.

The Mayor said the city will continue to monitor the situation, as well as guidance from state and federal governments, and make changes as necessary to protect the health of all Louisvillians.

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