

..Title

EXECUTIVE ORDER MANDATING MASK WEARRING THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF NEWARK EFFECTIVE MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021.

..Body

WHEREAS, Coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") is a contagious, and at times fatal, respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus; and

WHEREAS, over one year ago, on March 9, 2020 Governor Phillip D. Murphy of the State of New Jersey ("Governor Murphy") issued Executive Order 103, declaring a Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency due to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, I declared a State of Emergency in the City of Newark on March 12, 2020 after COVID-19 was declared a worldwide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, the City of Newark had its first confirmed case of COVID-19, and on March 18, 2020, the City had its first confirmed death of a Newark resident from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, since March 18, 2020, I have issued approximately thirty five (35) Executive Orders which set 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 V-2 virus strain , commonly referred to as the Delta Variant, is the dominant strain in the United States; the Omicron Variant is now more contagious and therefore is more deadly and spreads more quickly throughout communities; and

WHEREAS, the number of unvaccinated individuals testing positive for COVID-19 and requiring hospitalization both in Newark and across the State continues to rise; and

WHEREAS, I am tasked with the responsibility to take whatever steps are necessary to safeguard and best insure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens throughout the City of Newark. As of Tuesday, December 14, 2021 the City of Newark had a test positivity rate of 1 1.89%, and

WHEREAS, in the midst of this continuing pandemic, the increase in the Omicron Variant and until the spread of COVID-19 is contained and/or better controlled, I find it is necessary and critical for me to institute the following policies for the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens throughout the City of Newark.

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

- All City residents and visitors must wear a mask at all times while in the City of Newark.
- All patrons must be seated while at a bars within the City of Newark.

I will continue to monitor the progression of the virus and reserve the right to take additional mitigation measures, if the City's test positivity rate reaches 15% or higher for three (3) consecutive days.

This Executive Order shall take effect Monday, December 20, 2021 and supersedes all inconsistent Executive Orders.