

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-37

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CDC GUIDELINES FOR A LAYERED APPROACH TO STOPPING AND SLOWING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 DELTA VARIANT THROUGH VACCINATION, INDOOR MASKING, SOCIAL DISTANCING AND HAND HYGIENE

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard, located in Transylvania County, as all communities around the globe has been impacted by Covid-19 a potentially deadly pandemic virus, since its emergence in March of 2020; and

WHEREAS, to date, the Covid-19 pandemic has infected 207 million people globally, almost 40 million in the United States, 1.1 million in North Carolina and 2718 individuals in Transylvania County. Over the past 17 months, Covid has been responsible for the deaths of 4.36 million globally, 621,000 in the United States, almost 14,000 in North Carolina and 33 individuals in Transylvania County. (Sources: World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Transylvania County Health Department); and

WHEREAS, the Delta Variant has been identified by the CDC as the most dominant strain of Covid-19 since mid-June, accounting for the majority of all new cases diagnosed in the United States. Studies show, the Delta Variant is two times more infectious, more aggressively affects children than Covid-19 and previous variants, and appears to lead to more severe symptoms and subsequent death in unvaccinated people than previous variants. It is believed to be transmissible by fully vaccinated people, who are symptomatic and suffer from rare break-through illness. It is unclear whether non-symptomatic vaccinated people can transmit the illness to others, according to the CDC; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has noted that the Delta Variant is responsible for a notable reversal in the steady downward trajectory seen since early 2021 when vaccines became available. In Transylvania County, according to TC Health, there has been a 34 percent increase in cases between Aug. 4 and Aug. 11, 23 percent of these cases were diagnosed in children ages 0-17, of these half were younger than 12 and not vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, Transylvania County as of Aug. 11, has a 21 percent positive case rate, which amounts to 125 new cases in 7 days and whereas TC health guidelines, in accordance with the CDC and the NCDHHS, recommend the following "layered strategies" to slow and stop the spread of Covid-19 Delta variant: Get vaccinated to avoid severe or fatal illness, mask indoors and in heavily-populated outdoor areas regardless of vaccination status. Social distance in crowded situations and always use good hand hygiene to combat this highly adaptable virus; and

WHEREAS, nationwide 51.2 percent of all Americans are vaccinated, while North Carolina and Transylvania County register at 44 and 44.5 percent, respectively. According to Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, at least 75 percent of all people will have to be vaccinated, before the virus can be stopped.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Section 1. The City of Brevard, formally supports the guidelines set forth by the CDC, NCDHHS, and TC Health, and will encourage its citizens, employees and visitors to wear masks when indoors or in crowded places, social distance and use good hand hygiene whenever possible. This means City employees and representatives will be asked to conduct themselves as role models and wear masks when indoors or in crowded places.

Section 2. The City of Brevard will use all social media and other marketing avenues (banners, yard signs) to remind and encourage its citizens, employees and visitors to get vaccinated, wear a mask when indoors or in busy public places, use social distancing and proper hand hygiene to help slow the spread.

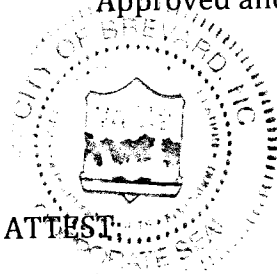
Section 3. The City of Brevard Council and Mayor vow to act as role models themselves within their elected and personal capacity to react nimbly as the disease's path develops. If emergency meetings to vote on emergency policy becomes necessary, Council and the Mayor will make it a priority to attend.

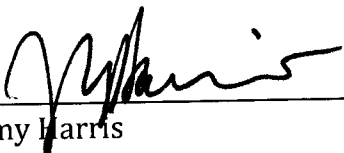
Section 4. The City of Brevard recognizes that the Covid-19 Pandemic has been taxing on its citizens, including its employees and business owners, who need support to enforce individual mask policies to keep businesses open, employees safe and Brevard's economy working. It is incumbent upon the City, to back individual businesses' decisions to quarantine for a certain number of days, or close early or limit patrons by numbers. None of these measures are made happily and most of our local stakeholders will need the City to speak with one voice, when they have to close doors or tell shoppers and patrons to come back another day.

Sections 5. The City of Brevard strongly encourages all organizations, places of work, worship, as well as schools, nurseries and preschools, to abide by the CDC guidelines to help protect our citizens, employees and visitors, as well as our local economy.

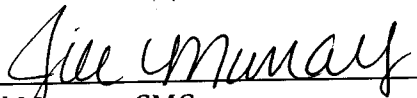
This resolution, while open-ended, aims to make the above stated measures temporary and they can be revoked when they are no longer necessary. If we follow the guidelines as a community, we can come out of this faster and with fewer losses of life or quality of life.

Approved and adopted this 16th day of August, 2021.





Jimmy Harris
Mayor



Jill Murray, CMC
City Clerk