



City of Hinesville News Release

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City to Resume Pre-Pandemic Operations

Face Masks No Longer Required in City Buildings; Council Meetings Return to Normal

HINESVILLE, GA (March 3, 2022) – This afternoon, the Hinesville City Council agreed to City Manager Kenneth Howard’s recommendation to ease COVID-19 mitigation efforts impacting City operations. Effective Monday, March 7, 2022, the City will return to pre-pandemic operations regarding its face mask requirements within City buildings and how it conducts City Council meetings. The recommendation to ease the mitigation efforts that were put into place following the Omicron virus surge comes upon news from public health officials that Liberty County’s COVID-19 Community Level is considered **Low**.

CDC looks at the combination of three metrics — new COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days, the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients, and total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days — to determine the COVID-19 community level.

“Following the surge of COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron virus, the City took the necessary steps to protect our residents, employees and elected officials,” Howard said. “While not always a popular stance, the Emergency Order fulfilled its purpose of keeping us safe. We’re happy to report that, based on new guidance from public health officials, the City’s COVID-19 Community Level is Low and under that guidance, we are excited to transition to our pre-pandemic operations.”

Starting next Monday, individuals will no longer be required to wear a face mask upon entering or moving about a City building. While face masks will no longer be required, they will still be encouraged, especially for individuals who are not yet fully vaccinated. According to the CDC’s most recent guidelines, based on COVID-19 Community Levels people can wear a mask based on personal preference, informed by personal level of risk. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

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“We are excited that the City’s COVID-19 Community Level is Low and we can transition back to our regular operations. This pandemic has taught us the importance of looking out for our community’s health and safety,” Mayor Allen Brown said. “It’s my genuine hope that we, as a community, continue to watch out for each other.”

In addition to eliminating the face mask requirement in City buildings, the City Council also approved Council meetings to return to normal operations. This includes modifying seating to allow more members of the public to attend, adding Public Comment back to the City Council meeting Agendas and allowing the City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney to return to their normal seating upon the dais. The Hinesville City Council meetings will continue to be livestreamed to the City’s Facebook page. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will take place on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 3 p.m. in City Hall, located at E. M. L. King, Jr. Dr. As the COVID-19 pandemic is fluid and everchanging, the City will continue to monitor its impacts on the community and adjust accordingly.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

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ABOUT THE CITY OF HINESVILLE:

The City of Hinesville was established in 1837 and is recognized as one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Georgia in both size and population. As the largest city in Liberty County, it serves as the county seat and is home to more than 35,000 people.