

TERMINATION **of** ***OUTDOOR MASKING*** **ORDER**

Whereas state law, RCW 70.05.070(2) - (3), requires and empowers the Local Health Officer to take such action as is necessary to maintain health and to control and prevent the spread of any contagious or infectious diseases within the jurisdiction, and;

Whereas state regulation, WAC 246-100-036, requires the Local Health Officer, when necessary, to institute disease control measures as he, she, or they deem necessary based on his, her, or their professional judgment, current standards of practice, and the best available medical and scientific information, and;

Whereas, on September 2, 2021, as the Local Health Officer, I ordered and required *outdoor masking* at any outdoor event with 500 or more people in attendance. This requirement applied to all people, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, 5-years of age and older, and;

Whereas, at the same time, I ordered and required *indoor masking* in indoor spaces that are open to the public, and;

Whereas King County since then has achieved a high vaccination rate with approximately 84% of the eligible population having completed the COVID-19 vaccine series – two shots of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines, or one shot of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, and;

Whereas since mid-January, local COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates have declined significantly, and;

Whereas the vast majority of COVID transmission occurs indoors, particularly in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces, and;

Whereas the risk of COVID-19 transmission is currently low in local outdoor settings.

Therefore, as the Local Health Officer, I **FIND** that *outdoor masking* is no longer necessary in King County to control the spread of COVID-19.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, I hereby **TERMINATE** the *outdoor masking* requirement in my **ORDER** of September 2, 2021.

However, the *indoor masking* requirement *remains* in full force and effect until further notice.

People who wish to further reduce their risk outdoors based on personal risk factors can do so by wearing a high-quality, well-fitting face mask.

Signed and so ordered this 18th day of February 2022 in Seattle, Washington, by:



Dr. Jeff Duchin
Local Health Officer
Public Health – Seattle & King County