

WAYNE COUNTY LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY
EPIDEMIC ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC UNDER MCL 333.2453

DECLARATION OF CONTINUED EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19
TO ALLOW PUBLIC MEETINGS OF GOVERNMENTAL BODIES TO BE HELD REMOTELY
UNDER PUBLIC ACT 228 OF 2020
EXTENDED FROM OCTOBER 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021

On September 27, 2021, I, Carol Austerberry, the Health Officer of the Wayne County Local Public Health Department, am extending the Local Public Health Emergency Epidemic Order (originally issued on March 20, 2021) for the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pursuant to section 333.2453 of the Public Health Code of the State of Michigan, as conditions warrant that it is necessary to continue to protect the public health from further transmission of COVID-19 within Wayne County. The jurisdiction of the Wayne County Local Public Health Department is Wayne County, except for the City of Detroit.

COVID-19 remains an imminent threat to the public throughout Wayne County. In the jurisdiction of the Wayne County Local Public Health Department, meetings of governmental bodies must be accessible to all members of the public, vaccinated and unvaccinated. Therefore, I am extending my originally issued emergency order to allow a local body to continue to hold remote meetings under the Open Meetings Act **until December 31, 2021**. Allowing for remote, hybrid, and in-person meetings maximize access and participation in public meetings until local bodies determine that in-person meetings may be held safely.

In deciding to extend this order, I carefully considered the following factors:

Even though the County has reached President Biden national vaccination rate milestone of 70 percent for first COVID-19 vaccine doses among those who are 12 years and older, there are demographic groups that have not yet reached this milestone. In addition, multiple *variants of concern* of COVID-19, including the Delta variant (B.1.1.7, B.1.351, B.1.429, B.1.427, P.1, and B.1.617.2), have been reported in the County. These variants are infectious, can cause severe illness, resulting in an increased number of hospitalizations or deaths, and may reduce the effectiveness of the COVID vaccines. The presence of multiple COVID -19 variants, the high positivity rate, and the high community transmission level are metrics that increase the risk of community transmission among vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

Under this order, each public body within the jurisdiction of the Wayne County Local Public Health Department may plan for remote, hybrid, and in-person meetings that allow for safe public access and participation in response to the rapidly changing COVID-19 environment.

Such measures will be enforced, and any violations are subject to citation and penalties as outlined in the Michigan Public Health Code.

This order is hereby effective as of October 1, 2021, and will remain in effect until December 31, 2021, at 11:59 p.m., unless withdrawn, extended, or replaced.

This order may be revised and supplemented with specific procedures and orders per the Michigan Public Health Code.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Austerberry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Austerberry, RS, MS, MPA
Wayne County Dept. of Health, Human & Veterans Services
Division Director/Local Health Officer

Dated: September 27, 2021