

City Council Study Session Memo

From: Paul M. Briseno, City Manager

Council Meeting: March 16, 2021

Subject: COVID-19 Occupancy Restrictions & Mask Mandate

Person(s) Responsible: Paul Briseno, City Manager

Summary:

Ordinance 21-001 currently regulates bars, restaurants, salons, retail and requires face coverings for indoor businesses and indoor public spaces, is set to expire April 10, 2021. Brookings County has reduced community spread from substantial to moderate, hospitalization is zero, cases are low, and only a portion of one trigger is met. Staff recommends renewal of the existing Ordinance with appropriate City Council changes.

Background:

On September 8, 2020 the City Council approved Ordinance 20-019 mandating face coverings where social distancing is not achievable for indoor businesses and public places. On February 9, 2021 the City Council passed Ordinance 21-001, renewing the existing regulation which requires bars, restaurants, casinos, grocery, retail, and fitness businesses to operate at half capacity. Employees of certain businesses are required to wear face coverings at all times.

Ordinance 21-001 also has the following requirements:

Restaurants/Bars

- Maximum of ten (10) customers or 50% occupancy, whichever is greater
 - Occupancy capacity posted at front entrance
- Groups of ten (10) or less and six (6) feet apart
- Cleaning of high touch areas/materials between users
- Screening employees recommended
- Employees required to wear masks
- Cleaning of used spaces before and after each customer
- No self-serve buffets or salad bars
- No sharing of condiments unless wiped between use

Grocery, Casino, Gyms, and Recreational Facilities

- Cleaning of equipment after use by customer and/or employee
- Maximum of ten (10) customers or 50% occupancy
 - Occupancy capacity posted at the front entrance
- Employees of Grocery stores will wear masks

- Protective measures/operations will be provided

Salons/Barber Shops

- Customers six (6) feet spacing & recommend service by appointment-only
- Employees will wear masks
- Clean equipment before and after each customer
- Adequate social distancing for waiting customers

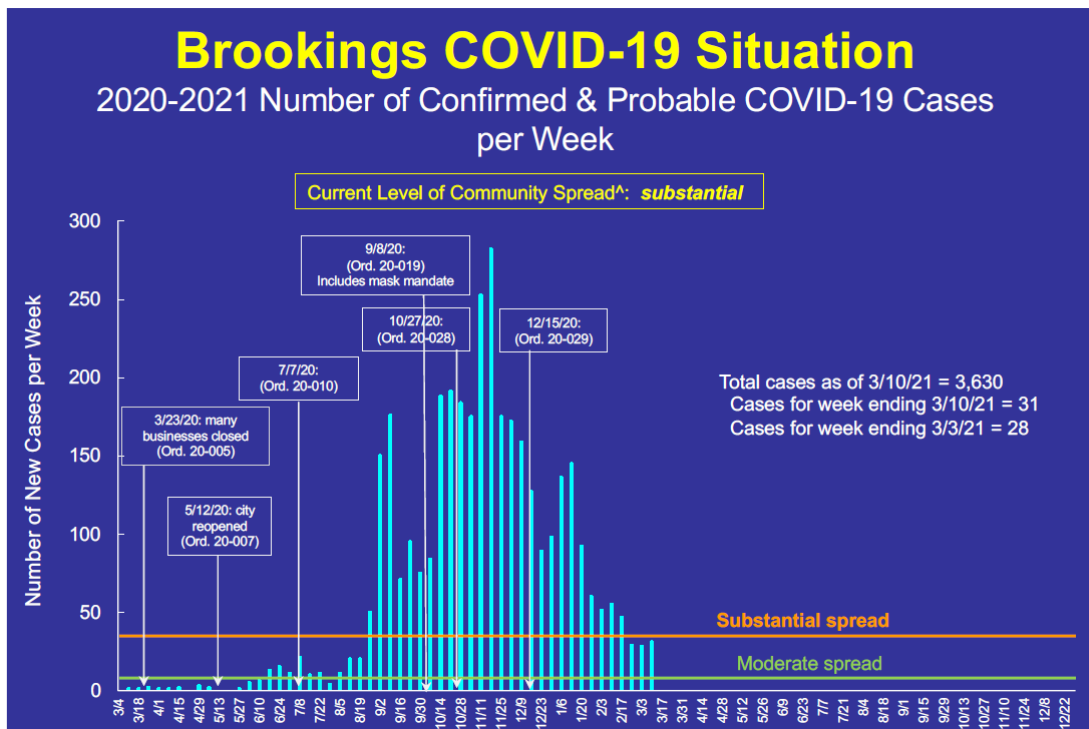
Face Covering required if adequate social distancing cannot be achieved

- Required for all indoor businesses and indoor public spaces
- Required for all City permitted events
- Exceptions include children under 5, medical conditions, religious place, educational units, certain non-profits, organized sports activity that have an approved plan

Businesses and residents who violate sections of this Ordinance will be subject to fines.

Discussion:

Brookings County has decreased in community spread from substantial to moderate. The seven-day rolling percent positivity, according to the Brookings Health System's dashboard, is 5.5%. Brookings County was ranked fifth of cases per one-hundred thousand of the counties with the top ten most populous cities. More importantly, Brookings County has the lowest total deaths. Approximately 1,028 vaccinations were given at the February 25, 2021 Community Vaccination Center event, and multiple mass vaccinations will occur in March and April. By early to mid-April, 1E is projected to be complete. As of the writing of this memo, approximately 18.5% of Brookings County residents 16+ years have received 1+ vaccines and 9.3% are fully vaccinated. Brookings County has achieved case counts similar to fall 2020.



Current thresholds indicate:

- The epidemic is controlled
- The health system can cope with COVID-19 cases
- Mitigation level is achieved
 - Suppression is not achieved

Staff has prepared two (2) Ordinances and a Resolution for consideration.

Ordinance 21-012

Contains the current Ordinance 21-001 regulating occupancy of bars, restaurants, salons, retail and requiring face coverings for indoor businesses and indoor public spaces.

Ordinance 21-013

Contains the mask mandate, requirements for plastic dividers in retail between customers and employees at checkout, and employees in certain businesses shall wear masks.

Ordinance 21-013 does not contain occupancy requirements. It further transitions many requirements into recommendations.

Resolution 21-024

This Resolution transitions all mask and occupancy requirements to recommendations. Upon passage the existing mask and occupancy Ordinance would end. The resolution is valid for sixty (60) days.

The items are presented at this Study Session for Council discussion. After the Study Session, in a Regular Meeting setting, the City Council will hold First Readings on Ordinance 21-012 and Ordinance 21-013, and possible action on Resolution 21-024. City Council should make further adjustments to Ordinance 21-013, if desired. Second Readings will occur March 23, 2021.

Supporting Documentation:

Ordinance 21-012

Ordinance 21-013 – clean

Ordinance 21-013 – marked

Resolution 21-024

COVID Thresholds (to be posted Monday, March 15)

Brookings Health System Dashboard (to be posted Monday, March 15)

Weekly Report

COVID Data

Expected Vaccine Phasing

Expected Vaccine Timeline