

from the Health Officer of Salt Lake County

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2022, Salt Lake County is experiencing COVID-19 transmission at rates not seen since November 2020, and Salt Lake County ICUs are operating at over 89% utilization with 34% of ICU patients hospitalized due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2022, 65% of eligible Salt Lake County residents have not received the COVID-19 booster and 24% of Salt Lake County residents are unvaccinated; and

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2022, 28% of 12- to 17-year-olds and 70% of 5- to 11-year-olds in Salt Lake County are unvaccinated; and

WHEREAS, on November 26, 2021, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the new COVID B.1.1.529 variant, named Omicron, a variant of concern because it has a large number of mutations, and preliminary evidence suggests an increased risk of reinfection and spread across the world, including to the United States; and

WHEREAS, increased COVID-19 transmission is expected with the Omicron variant, risking stable continuation of essential services and business/industry operations; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 infection is transmitted predominately by inhalation of respiratory droplets, and studies show that masks and face coverings block the release of respiratory droplets into the environment and can also reduce the wearer’s exposure to droplets from others because COVID-19 viral particles spread between people more readily indoors and when people are closer together for longer periods of time indoors; and

WHEREAS, the WHO and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) have advised all individuals to take measures to reduce their risk of COVID-19, especially the Delta and Omicron variants, including proven public health and social measures such as wearing well-fitting masks, hand hygiene, physical distancing, improving ventilation of indoor spaces, avoiding crowded spaces, getting vaccinated, and receiving a booster shot; and

WHEREAS, recent evidence suggests infections with Omicron may cause less severe disease, there is still an opportunity for negative health and social outcomes associated with the Omicron variant that may be mitigated through increased awareness and actions intended to slow transmission of COVID-19;

THEREFORE, YOU ARE HEREBY ADVISED THAT THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2022:

1. All individuals over the age of two years who can medically tolerate wearing a mask, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status or past COVID-19 infection, are advised:
 - To always wear a mask when indoors in a public setting, including at grocery stores, building lobbies, offices, retail stores, school classrooms, childcare centers, and other common or shared spaces where individuals may interact

such as restrooms, hallways, elevators, and meeting rooms.

- To wear a mask that covers the nose and the mouth and rests snugly above the nose, below the mouth, and on the sides of the face. Higher-quality masks, such as KN95s or KF94s, may offer additional protection.
 - That wearing a mask is not essential in cases where an individual is actively performing an activity that cannot be done while wearing a face covering such as sleeping; actively eating or drinking; practicing or playing a competitive recreational or professional sport; or performing, including but not limited to playing music, delivering a speech to an audience seated at least six feet away, and acting or singing in a theater.
2. All individuals, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status or past COVID-19 infection, are advised to stay home when ill and obtain COVID-19 testing.
 3. All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are advised to follow current CDC guidance for isolation.
 4. All unvaccinated/un-boosted individuals, including those who are eligible for a booster but have not yet received it, are advised to avoid large gatherings.
 5. All individuals who are eligible for vaccination are advised to be vaccinated.
 6. All individuals who are eligible for a booster and have not had one are advised to receive a booster dose.