

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

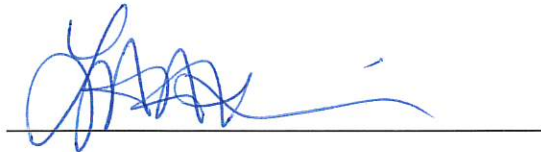
**COUNTY OF LAFAYETTE**

**CITY OF OXFORD**

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Ashley Atkinson, City Clerk for the City of Oxford, Mississippi, hereby certify that the following Resolution was duly passed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Oxford, Mississippi, at a Special Board Meeting held on the 25th day of August, 2021.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I signed and sealed this instrument as the City Clerk of Oxford, Mississippi, this the 25th day of August, 2021.



Ashley Atkinson, City Clerk



**THIRTEENTH RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF  
THE CITY OF OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI, DECLARING ADDITIONAL MEASURES FOR  
THE CONTROL OF CONTAGIOUS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE AND FOR RELATED  
PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a nationwide state of emergency due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Miss. Code Ann. §33-15-11(b)(17), Governor Tate Reeves declared a State of Emergency existed in the State of Mississippi as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Oxford, Lafayette County, and the surrounding area which is served by Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi (BMH-NM, or “the Hospital”) in Oxford, Mississippi, is experiencing a surge of COVID-19 cases which is severely straining the resources of BMH-NM and its health care providers; and

WHEREAS, the governing authorities for the City of Oxford have been in close contact with physicians and administrators for BMH-NM, and have been informed that the Hospital is experiencing large numbers of cases of COVID-19 cases which have caused most and at times all of the Hospital’s spaces, personnel, and equipment to be at peak capacity or beyond, thereby causing some delays in treatment and prioritization of treatment beyond the normal operations of the Hospital; and

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2021, BMH-NM informed the City’s governing authorities that it is declaring an Internal Disaster in its hospital, largely because of the number of patients it is treating for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Hospital physicians and administrators, and other health care experts in the City, State, and nation have stated in the strongest terms that individuals should receive a vaccine if they are medically able to do so and wear a mask in areas of significant outbreaks; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi State Department of Health (“MSDH”) has issued a statement that Mississippi is experiencing high levels of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations due to the delta variant, and recommends among other things that citizens should get a COVID-19 vaccination if you are eligible, and wear a mask in all indoor public settings, even if you are vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 Mayor Robyn Tannehill signed a Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and on March 17, 2020, the City of Oxford, through its Mayor and Board of Aldermen ratified this Proclamation, and adopted a Resolution declaring a Civil Emergency, and for the Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases and Related Purposes, which made certain findings and required, among other things, restaurants to close dining rooms and provide services through curbside pick-up, drive through and delivery methods only, and prohibited the use by the public of interior or exterior common dining or bar facilities; and

WHEREAS, Governor Tate Reeves has issued additional Executive Orders and the City has passed updated resolutions and safety guidelines for the purpose of controlling the COVID-19 pandemic, the findings of all of which are incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2020, Governor Reeves signed Executive Order 1525, which, among other things, “strongly encouraged” Mississippians to follow Centers for Disease Control and Mississippi Department of Health recommendations such as wearing a face covering in public, avoiding large gatherings, and maintaining social distancing.

WHEREAS, Executive Order 1525 further limits public and private social gatherings and recreational activities to no more than 20 people indoors and no more than 100 people outdoors, limits the capacity of restaurants, bars, reception halls, conference centers, and provides certain restrictions for the operation of sports complexes; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 1525 allows municipalities to adopt “orders, rules, regulations, resolutions, and actions that are more strict than established [in Executive Order 1525], including face covering requirements,” so long as such regulations do not prevent essential businesses from providing essential services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oxford has reviewed the restrictions imposed by its prior resolutions, as well as the restrictions imposed by this Resolution, and has found those restrictions do not conflict with the terms of Executive Order 1525; and

WHEREAS, the emergence and spread of COVID-19 and the delta variant within Mississippi, and particularly in Oxford, Lafayette County, and the surrounding areas, continue to constitute a public emergency that has resulted in substantial injury or harm to life, health, and property within Mississippi, and in the City of Oxford, and COVID-19, and has been detected in numerous individuals within Lafayette County, Mississippi and on the University of Mississippi campus; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi and the City of Oxford continue to be adversely affected by the outbreak of COVID-19, and there exists a continued threat to the public’s safety, private property and the social and economic welfare of this City, County, and State; and

WHEREAS, the CDC “recommends that people wear masks in public settings and when around people who don’t live in your household, especially when other social distancing

measures are difficult to maintain,” and further advises that “[m]asks may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others” and that “[m]asks are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings,” *Considerations for Wearing Masks*, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html> (accessed Sept. 30, 2020); and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of Health recommends that “[a]ll Mississippi residents should wear non-medical grade masks or homemade cloth face coverings when shopping, running errands, or otherwise away from home” and that “[f]ace covering is especially important when a distance of at least 6 feet cannot easily be maintained between persons,” *COVID-19 Guidance and Prevention for Individuals and the Community*, [https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/14,21866,420.html](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,21866,420.html) (accessed Sept. 30, 2020); and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of Health recommends to control the spread of COVID-19 people should “[w]ear a mask in all indoor public settings, even if you are vaccinated,” *Preventing COVID-19: Recommendations and Requirements*, [https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/14,21866,420.html#prevention](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,21866,420.html#prevention) (accessed Aug. 24, 2021); and

WHEREAS, the governing authorities of the City of Oxford have reviewed and accept the findings and recommendations of the CDC and the Mississippi Department of Health, and have further received the same findings and recommendations from health professionals and administrators within the City of Oxford and Lafayette County, and have continued to be timely updated regarding the threat that COVID-19 has posed and continues to pose for the City of Oxford and Lafayette County, and accept those findings and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the population of the City of Oxford is comprised of college students, substantial numbers of nurses, aides and support staff for physicians, employees and staff of a regional hospital and several long term care facilities, and contains significant populations of both older, at-risk individuals and individuals who travel broadly and frequently, and the City of Oxford is a location frequently visited by individuals from surrounding counties, towns, and cities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oxford may face additional difficulties because of its large transient student population; and

WHEREAS, Section 45-17-3 of the Mississippi Code allows the City to proclaim a civil emergency if it determines that a natural disaster which has caused death or injury has occurred, which the City has done; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen continue to find that COVID-19 is a natural disaster which has caused and will continue to cause injury, illness and death to persons to such an extent that additional extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens and visitors to the City of Oxford; and

WHEREAS, Section 45-17-7 of the Mississippi Code allows the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Oxford, after declaration of a civil emergency and in the interest of the

public safety and welfare, to issue such orders as are necessary for the protection of life of citizens and visitors to the City of Oxford, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Section 21-19-29 of the Mississippi Code allows the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Oxford to regulate the entrances to public halls and buildings, and the way of ingress and egress to and from the same; and

WHEREAS, Section 21-19-3 of the Mississippi Code grants the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City the power to make regulations to prevent the introduction and spread of contagious or infectious diseases;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN of the City of Oxford, that the City adopts the following measures to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the community from the spread of a contagious or infectious disease and to eliminate or limit injuries or deaths that may occur in the absence of such measures:

Section 1: The City of Oxford adopts all findings and regulations contained herein, and issues the following restrictions, to become effective at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 25, 2021.

Every person in the City of Oxford shall wear a face covering, covering the nose and mouth, while inside a business, or other building or space open to the public whenever it is not possible to maintain a minimum of six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household, except face coverings are not required for the following:

- 1) Persons who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical or behavioral condition, who have trouble breathing or are incapacitated, or whose healthcare professional has recommended that a face covering not be worn;
- 2) Persons seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired in a way that requires the mouth to be visible;
- 3) Persons while eating or drinking;
- 4) Persons in a building or engaged in an activity that utilizes or requires security surveillance or screening (e.g., banking or financial institutions), and only during such times when these persons are under security surveillance or screening;
- 5) Persons engaged in swimming activities or other activities while in a swimming pool;
- 6) Persons engaged in exercising in fitness and exercise gyms or other sports activity;
- 7) Persons while giving a speech, presentation or performance for a broadcast or to an audience;
- 8) Persons actively providing or obtaining access to religious worship (NOTE wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged for such indoor activities);
- 9) Children under the age of six (6) (NOTE parents and guardians shall be responsible for ensuring proper use of face coverings by children six (6) years of age and older and must ensure that face coverings do not pose a choking hazard and can be safely worn without obstructing a child's ability to breathe); and

- 10) Other settings where it is not practical or feasible to wear a face covering, including, but not limited to, when obtaining or rendering goods or services (such as receipt of dental services) or would otherwise impede visibility to operate equipment.
- 11) In any business, building or other space open to the public in which all occupants of such business, building, or space are required to show proof of vaccination at the time of entry into such building.

Additionally, all businesses and services must require the following face covering and social distancing measures until further order of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

- 1) Employees shall properly wear face coverings ensuring the face covering covers the mouth and nose.
- 2) All businesses shall monitor all points of entrance and prohibit entrance into the business by any individual over the age of six (6) years not wearing a face covering, unless the business satisfies number 11 above.
- 3) Management of each business must provide adequate supervision to ensure compliance of the face-covering requirement, unless compliant to number 11 above, to include but not limited to door monitors to monitor the entrance of the public and floor supervision for employees.
- 4) Prominent signs at every entrance informing customers they must stay 6 feet away from other customers who did not accompany them to the store;
- 5) For businesses with existing public-address systems, regular announcements instructing customers to stay six feet away from each other;
- 6) For businesses that utilize such technology, signage encouraging cashless purchases, online ordering and pickup, and use of self-service checkout stations.

Section 2: All businesses, agencies and units of government located within the City of Oxford shall continue to take all reasonable measures to ensure that such businesses, agencies and units of government comply with the CDC and the Mississippi Department of Health recommendations and guidance, and shall implement appropriate safeguards to prevent the spread of infectious disease, including but not limited to: mandating social distancing, sending home sick employees and actively encouraging sick employees to stay home, separating and sending home employees who appear to have respiratory illness symptoms, emphasizing work-from-home policies where possible, mandating respiratory etiquette and proper hand hygiene, maintaining clean and sanitary workplaces, cautioning employees regarding travel, and taking all such additional measures to prohibit and/or reduce the spread of infectious disease, and especially COVID-19.

Section 3: The Mayor may issue such other orders as are necessary for the protection of life and liberty. The Mayor is also empowered and authorized to interpret the terms of this



Resolution and any executive order incorporated and referenced herein to the extent necessary to enforce this resolution or any such order.

Section 4: The penalties for violation of this adopted resolution shall be the same as those listed in the ordinance amending Chapter 1, Code of Ordinances of the City of Oxford, Mississippi – General Provisions, which the City of Oxford adopted on or about March 18, 2020.

Section 5: The City, in consultation with its Emergency Management Coordinator, local health care professionals, and with consideration for national and State guidance, shall continuously monitor conditions to determine certain milestones, peaks, and trajectories for the presence of COVID-19 in the Oxford, Lafayette County, and local University of Mississippi communities, and shall change restrictions and requirements as they determine to be appropriate under circumstances presented to the City.

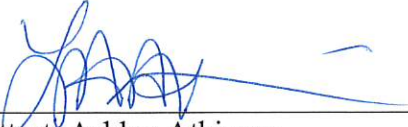
Section 6: To the extent any current Executive Order of the Governor may issue which is more restrictive than this Resolution, such Executive Order shall control. The intent of this Resolution is not to be less restrictive than any current Executive Order in any way.

Section 7: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect until amended or rescinded by the governing authorities of the City of Oxford.

Alderman Hyneman moved for adoption of the Resolution, which motion was seconded by Alderman Addy, said Resolution having been introduced in writing at a specially called meeting of the Mayor Board of Aldermen of the City of Oxford, Mississippi, held on August 25, 2021, which was read, considered, debated and ultimately adopted, paragraph by paragraph, section by section, then as a whole, and the question being put to a vote, the Mayor recorded the votes as follows:

Alderman Rick Addy voted:	aye
Alderman Mark Huelse voted:	no
Alderwoman Brian Hyneman voted:	aye
Alderman Kesha Howell-Atkinson voted:	aye
Alderman Preston E. Taylor voted:	aye
Alderman Jason Bailey voted:	no
Alderman John Morgan voted:	no

  
Robyn Tannehill  
Mayor of the City of Oxford, Mississippi



Attest: Ashley Atkinson  
City Clerk, City of Oxford, Mississippi

