

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 2-2022
(Protecting Fundamental Rights of Nassau Residents and Businesses)

WHEREAS, on December tenth two-thousand and twenty-one, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul mandated that masks be required in all indoor public places unless businesses or venues implement a vaccine requirement effective December thirteenth two-thousand and twenty-one until January fifteenth two-thousand and twenty-two; and

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2021, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul extended the December tenth two-thousand and twenty-one mandated masks policy until February first two-thousand and twenty-two; and

WHEREAS, thirteen counties throughout the State of New York have publicly refused to enforce such mandate as required by the State of New York.

WHEREAS, the State of New York is one of only eight states in the nation that require people to wear masks in indoor public places; and

WHEREAS, more than ninety-eight percent of Nassau County adults are vaccinated against COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County is not in crisis and state government should not paint all counties with the same broad brush as the rest of the state; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County government has a Home Rule responsibility to prevent the state, its subdivisions, or any governmental institution, from infringing on the fundamental rights of its citizenry without demonstrating that such action is reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest and that such action is narrowly tailored and is not otherwise served by less restrictive means; and

WHEREAS, we should equally and uniformly protect the freedoms and rights of citizens across the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bruce A. Blakeman, as County Executive of the County of Nassau, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Nassau County Charter and the Laws of the State of New York, and all other applicable laws, direct that Nassau County agencies cease enforcement of mask mandates as required by New York State under the Executive Order signed by New York State Governor Kathy Hochul on December tenth two-thousand and twenty-one and further extended on February first two-thousand and twenty-two.

Dated: January 6, 2022



BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN
COUNTY EXECUTIVE