



**SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF A
LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY
LIFTING RESTRICTIONS IN COUNTY OWNED AND OPERATED FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina declared a State of Emergency to coordinate the State’s response and protective actions to address the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) public health emergency and provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors located in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, based on public health guidance from the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Jackson County declared a Local State of Emergency on March 16, 2020 in an effort to promote social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Jackson County issued a Supplemental Declaration of a Local State of Emergency on March 23, 2020 and a Modified Second Supplemental to Declaration of a Local State of Emergency on Monday, March 30, 2020 and a Superseding Declaration of a Local State of Emergency on Thursday, May 7, 2020 and a Supplemental Declaration of a Local State of Emergency on June 26, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people of North Carolina, the Governor of North Carolina has issued Executive Order Nos. 116-122, 124-125, 129-131, 133-136, 138-144, 146-153, 155-157, 161-165, 169-173, 176-177, 180-181, 183-185, 188-193, 195, 197-198, 200, 204-207, 209-212 and Executive Order No. 215; and

WHEREAS, over recent months in North Carolina, due to the measures taken to date by the State of North Carolina and by Jackson County, there have been improvements in the state’s key COVID-19 metrics; and

WHEREAS, the state is experiencing lower rates of the percent of emergency department visits that are due to COVID-like illness, the number of COVID-19 daily diagnoses, the percent of total COVID-19 tests that are positive, and the number of COVID-19 associated hospitalizations; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 vaccines are now widely available at no cost to all eligible North Carolinians who wish to receive one, and all eligible Jackson County residents are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the pandemic, public health experts have gained enhanced knowledge of the COVID-19 virus, including a better understanding of what settings and activities pose the greatest risk of transmitting the virus, and what mitigation strategies are most effective to curb the spread; and

WHEREAS, due to the totality of the enhanced knowledge and circumstances, the Face Covering and social distance requirements in County Owned and Operated Facilities should be lifted in most settings; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 215 lifts Face Covering and social distance restrictions in most settings.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Emergency Management Ordinance for the County of Jackson I hereby declare:

1. Jackson County remains under a State of Emergency as declared on March 16, 2020 and as declared in a Superseding Declaration of a Local State of Emergency on May 7, 2020. Jackson County remains subject to all of the Governor's Executive Orders.
2. As set forth in Executive Order No. 215 and in accordance with guidance from the Jackson County Health Director the order requiring the wearing of Face Coverings and social distancing when entering the public space of a Jackson County owned facility or facility operated by Jackson County is hereby rescinded in most settings.
3. Face Coverings continue to be required in health care settings and clinics, in child care facilities, at children's day or overnight camps, on public transportation, in correctional facilities and detention centers and in facilities serving individuals who are at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19.
4. The new CDC and public health recommendations confirm that unvaccinated people put themselves at great risk if they do not wear Face Coverings and social distance in recommended settings and it is therefore strongly encouraged that unvaccinated people continue to wear Face Coverings and social distance.

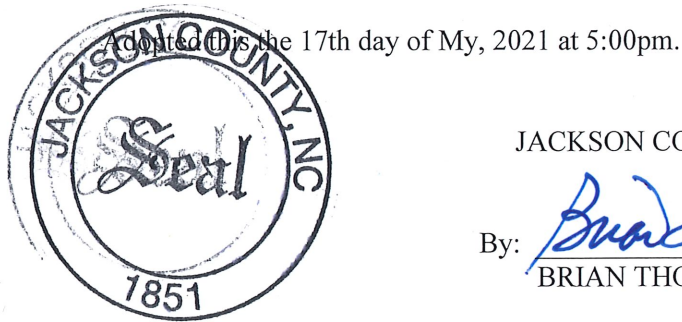
By and with the consent of the mayors of the municipalities within Jackson County, this Declaration of Local State of Emergency applies within the municipal limits of the Town of Sylva, the Town of Dillsboro, the Town of Webster and the Village of Forest Hills.

This Declaration is in addition to the Executive Orders referenced above and should any provision hereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of any competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect the validity of this Declaration that as a whole or any part thereof which is not specifically declared to be invalid or unconstitutional.

We direct that copies of this Declaration be disseminated to the mass communications media for publication and broadcast and that a copy of this Declaration be posted at the Jackson County Justice and Administration Building and other public buildings as appropriate and on the Jackson County website.

All of the terms and conditions of that said Local State of Emergency declared on March 16, 2020 and the Superseding Declaration of a Local State of Emergency declared on May 7, 2020 remain in full force and effect.

This Supplemental Declaration of Local State of Emergency Lifting Restrictions in County Owned and Operated Facilities for Jackson County shall begin on May 18, 2021 at 12:00am and shall remain in effect unless terminated or modified as long as the Jackson County Local State of Emergency remains in force and effect.



Adopted this the 17th day of My, 2021 at 5:00pm.

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: *Brian Thomas McMahen*
BRIAN THOMAS MCMAHAN, Chairman

Attest:
Angela M. Winchester
ANGELA M. WINCHESTER, Clerk to the Board