



**TERMINATION OF THE DECLARATION OF A  
STATE OF EMERGENCY IN DURHAM COUNTY, NC  
TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

**WHEREAS**, the novel coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) is a disease which has spread across the globe causing flu-like symptoms, but with a significantly higher rate of death, particularly among those who are elderly or medically vulnerable; and

**WHEREAS**, on 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) determined the outbreak constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and it was also declared to be a public health emergency by Federal and State officials; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chair of the Durham County Board of County Commissioners issued a Declaration of State of Emergency in Durham County (“Declaration”) on March 14, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 20, 2021, the undersigned determined that, while COVID-19 still presented a serious health threat which required vigilance and adherence to the guidance of public health officials, there was not a need for local action beyond the standards set forth in the then-current Executive Orders of Governor Cooper and Federal mandates; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the development of a more contagious variant and initially low vaccination rates, attributable in part to the delayed development of an approved vaccine for children under the age of 12, the positive case rate rose in July 2021, Durham public health officials and the operators of Duke Health advised prompt action was necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 and preserve medical supplies and hospital capacity, and so the undersigned issued a new Declaration, effective August 9, 2021, requiring the use of face coverings in Durham County; and

**WHEREAS**, other highly contagious variants subsequently developed requiring the continuation of the local face covering mandate; and

**WHEREAS**, at the present time, the number of persons vaccinated in Durham and across the State of North Carolina has significantly increased, and the rate of positive cases and hospitalizations have decreased; and

**WHEREAS**, although COVID-19 still presents a serious health threat which requires vigilance and adherence to guidance from public health officials, and while it is true that face coverings— particularly N95 and KN95 masks—are still effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19, there is, at present, no longer a need to continue local requirements for the wearing of face coverings, given current data and markers on rates of infection in Durham and the updated advice of medical professionals;



**NOW THEREFORE BE IT DECLARED THAT**, the Declaration of State of Emergency in the County of Durham to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 is **TERMINATED**, and the restrictions in effect pursuant to that Declaration are **TERMINATED**, effective at 12:01 a.m. on March 7, 2022.

A copy of this Termination of the Declaration of State of Emergency in the County of Durham shall be provided to the County Clerk and posted at the County Courthouse and on the County's website, and a copy shall be provided to the Chief of Emergency Management for submission to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety.

This Termination is electronically signed at this date and time: March 4, 2022, at 8:00 a.m.

Brenda A. Howerton, Chair  
Durham County Board of Commissioners