

**ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
DECLARATION OF STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY
EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2021-24**

Date: July 28, 2021

Time: 4:08 P.M.

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2021, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 21-94 recommending that the State of Florida prepare to resume non-emergency operations due, in part, to a manageable trend in COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2021, the 14-day rolling positivity rate for COVID-19 in Orange County, Florida (the "County") was 4.28%; and

WHEREAS, with the presence of the Delta variant of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2) in Orange County, which has been linked to increased transmissibility, and the significant reopening of Orange County's economic, cultural and civic life bringing more people into contact with each other, Orange County has experienced an increase in the daily positivity rate of infections for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, by July 28, 2021, the 14-day rolling positivity rate for COVID-19 in Orange County had significantly increased to over fifteen-percent (15%); and

WHEREAS, Orange County's wastewater monitoring has shown a substantial increase in COVID-19 RNA concentrations which can indicate an advance warning of virus spikes, outbreaks, and infections; and

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2021, approximately one thousand three hundred seventy-one (1,371) people in Orange County tested positive for COVID-19 which is the largest amount of people to test positive in one day in Orange County since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, certain health care providers in Orange County have reported that up to thirty-percent (30%) of their positive COVID-19 test results have come from vaccinated persons; and

WHEREAS, Orange County health care providers have experienced an increase in emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and deaths related to COVID-19 resulting in more inpatients and more ventilator use for some providers than at any other time during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, certain health care providers in Orange County currently have more than four and a half-times (4.5x) the number of COVID-19 inpatients compared to their totals on May 27,

2021; and

WHEREAS, approximately ninety-five-percent (95%) of patients in the intensive care units of certain health care providers in Orange County are unvaccinated persons; and

WHEREAS, certain health care providers in Orange County have had to turn down or deny patients seeking elective procedures in order to make room for COVID-19 patients; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has determined that levels of community transmission in Orange County, Florida are "high" which is the highest classification provided; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to pose a public health threat to the people of Orange County; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 2, Article IX, Orange County Code, empower the Orange County Mayor to declare a State of Local Emergency when conditions such as those described hereinabove are found to exist; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 2, Article IX, Orange County Code, empower the Director of Emergency Management to exercise extraordinary powers during the existence of a State of Local Emergency, including the exercise of certain powers by Emergency Orders issued by the Director of Emergency Management.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Jerry L. Demings, County Mayor of Orange County, Florida, do hereby find for the reasons set forth above that a State of Local Emergency exists within both unincorporated and incorporated Orange County, Florida.

Pursuant to pertinent legal authorities, I, Jerry L. Demings, shall act as Director of Emergency Management during the State of Local Emergency declared herein and am vested with all powers and authority granted to such position during the existence of the State of Local Emergency proclaimed hereby.

Furthermore, all procedures and formalities required by law of Orange County, Florida, as a political subdivision pertaining to the matters described in Section 252.38(3)(a)5.a. through h., Florida Statutes, are hereby waived during the State of Local Emergency.

As the Director of Emergency Management, I shall issue such other Emergency Orders as are required to conduct County business and to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the people and property within Orange County.

All public officials and employees of Orange County are hereby directed to exercise the utmost diligence in discharge of duties required of them for the duration of this State of Local Emergency and in the execution of State and Local emergency orders, regulations and directives.

All people of Orange County are called upon and directed to comply with all necessary emergency measures, and to cooperate with public officials and civil emergency/disaster service forces in executing emergency operational plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful direction of all properly identified public officers.

The State of Local Emergency declared hereby shall continue for seven days from the date and time hereof, and may be extended, as necessary, pursuant to Section 252.38(3)(a)5, Florida Statutes.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 

Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor

RECEIVED AND FILED in the office of the Orange County Comptroller as clerk to the Board of County Commissioners this 28th day of July, 2021 at 4:08 o'clock P.M.

By: 

~~Deputy~~ Comptroller