



EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-2

Issued by

TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT,

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Cook County, Illinois

August 23, 2021

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19 presents a public health emergency on January 27, 2020, and on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Cook County Code of Ordinances, Sections 26-36 and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11, on March 10, 2020, County Board President Toni Preckwinkle found that the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 constitute a public health emergency and issued a proclamation of disaster for Cook County; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Illinois law, on various dates in 2020 and 2021 the Proclamation of Disaster was extended; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the "Forest Preserve District") was covered under Cook County's Emergency Operations Plan as a result of the Proclamation of Disaster; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7, Governor Pritzker has continued to find that a disaster exists within the State of Illinois and has declared all counties in the State of Illinois under a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Governor Pritzker's disaster declarations, Cook County remains a disaster area and under a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 continues to have an impact on this nation, the State of Illinois and Cook County as we continue to respond to the public health disaster caused by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") reports that new variants of COVID-19, identified as "variants of concern," have emerged in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District continues to focus on the health, safety and welfare of its employees and patrons; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has reported that the Delta variant of the coronavirus has been found to be more aggressive and more transmissible than previously circulating strains, and poses new risks in the ongoing effort to stop and slow the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has reported that the Delta variant may cause more severe disease than prior strains of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the CDC estimates that the Delta variant now accounts for more than ninety percent (90%) of all sequenced coronavirus in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has reported that COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to increase, especially in areas with higher levels of community transmission and lower vaccination coverage; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has stated that vaccination is an effective tool to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and benefits both vaccine recipients and those they come into contact with, including persons who for reasons of age, health, or other conditions cannot themselves be vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, an individual is considered fully vaccinated two (2) or more weeks following receipt of a second dose in a 2-dose series of a COVID-19 vaccine, or two (2) or more weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine; and

WHEREAS, in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is critical that the Forest Preserve District take every reasonable step in its workplace to ensure that its employees and patrons are safe and mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for its employees.

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the State of Illinois, the laws of the State of Illinois, the Ordinances of Cook County and the Forest Preserve District, and in accordance with the State of Illinois' Declaration of Disaster,

I, TONI PRECKWINKLE, President of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, **DO HEREBY ORDER**, as follows:

1. For the protection of Forest Preserve District employees as well as visitors to the Forest Preserve District, and following guidance from numerous public health authorities, effective August 27, 2021, the Forest Preserve District will adopt and implement a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy for all employees. This policy shall also apply to volunteers, interns, consultants, contract personnel, independent contractors, and personnel working on Forest Preserve District premises who are employed by temporary agencies and any other persons or firms doing business for or with the Forest Preserve District.

Active employees as of the effective date of this policy must be fully vaccinated by October 15, 2021. The Forest Preserve District vaccine mandate is critical for the health of employees and a requirement to maintain safe in-person operations. In accordance with the Forest Preserve District's vaccination policy, employees may request exemptions from the requirement for medical or religious reasons. Employees whose requests for reasonable accommodation are granted must submit to PCR based tests twice weekly. New employees who start after the effective date of this policy must be either fully vaccinated or submit a request for reasonable accommodation prior to onboarding.

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BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that, this order shall take effect upon its execution and filing with the Secretary of the Board and that immediate notice of this order be delivered by the Secretary to the Board to the seventeen members of the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners and General Superintendent, and that immediate notice of this order be delivered by the General Superintendent to Forest Preserve District employees.



Toni Preckwinkle
President

Dated: August 23, 2021

ATTEST:

Lynne M. Turner

Lynne M. Turner
Interim Board Secretary

Received and Filed: August 23, 2021