



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

February 18, 2022

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Khahilia Shaw, Esquire
1030 15th Street NW
Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
records@americanoversight.org

RE: *Freedom of Information Act Request*

Dear Ms. Shaw:

Thank you for contacting the Office of the Governor (“Office”). On or about December 20, 2021, the Office received an email from Mariuxi Pintado on behalf of American Oversight, as well as your accompanying letter requesting certain records pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-4-10 *et seq.* According to the aforementioned letter, it is the Office’s understanding that American Oversight is seeking, in pertinent part, as follows:

1. Any final assessments, reports, analyses, recommendations, or guidance prepared by your office, other state or local offices, or independent experts, regarding any projected or actual impacts of mask mandates on the spread of COVID-19.
2. All email communications (including emails, complete email chains, email attachments, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) sent by any of the officials listed below concerning the impacts of mask mandates on the spread of COVID-19.

Office of the Governor Officials

- i. Governor Henry McMaster, or anyone acting on their behalf, such as an assistant or scheduler
- ii. Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette, or anyone acting on their behalf, such as an assistant or schedule

- iii. Trey Walker, Chief of Staff
- iv. Anyone serving as Director of Legislative Affairs, including in an interim capacity

In an effort to accommodate your office and reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited request item 2 to emails sent by the listed officials. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages.

For both items 1 and 2, please provide all responsive records from April 1, 2021, to the date the search is conducted.

As you will recall, by letter of January 7, 2022, the Office acknowledged receipt of American Oversight's FOIA request and confirmed that staff had identified certain records as potentially responsive to one or more portions of the same.

Based on the scope of American Oversight's FOIA request and the search efforts associated with the same, the Office estimated that the "total reasonably anticipated cost for reproduction of the records" would likely equal or exceed \$210.00. Accordingly, pursuant to section 30-4-30(B) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, the Office invited you to remit payment in the amount of \$52.50 as a partial deposit. On or about January 21, 2022, the Office received a check in the amount of \$52.50. A receipt is enclosed herewith for American Oversight's records.

Please allow this letter to confirm that the Office has completed its search efforts and compiled information identified as responsive to your FOIA request, subject to any applicable exemptions, exclusions, or limitations under state or federal law. Accordingly, the present correspondence will serve as this Office's timely response to the aforementioned FOIA request. To this end, the Office is producing herewith certain records Bates-labeled "2022-02-18 Response to K. Shaw FOIA Request 001-026." In the interest of transparency, and as you will see, please be advised that certain exclusions, exemptions, or other disclosure limitations applied to limited portions of the record identified in connection with American Oversight's FOIA request, including: S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-40(a)(2), (4). To the extent American Oversight's FOIA request is directed to multiple state agencies or officials, please note that the Office does not process FOIA requests for or on behalf of, or that seek records from or maintained by, separate state agencies, entities, or officials.

As previously noted, due to the high volume of FOIA requests received by the Office and the significant costs associated therewith, the Office is permitted to charge reasonable fees for searching for, copying, transferring, and redacting records pursuant to section 30-4-30(B) of the South Carolina Code of Laws. However, at this time, please note staff has been authorized to waive the remainder of the discounted fees associated with American Oversight's FOIA request.

Khahilia Shaw, Esquire
Page 3
February 18, 2022

Once again, thank you for your recent correspondence and records request. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

Michael G. Shedd

Michael G. Shedd
Deputy Legal Counsel

Enclosures

From: [Simpson, Cody](#)
To: [REDACTED]@hpeprint.com
Subject: 4-1-2021 - State Restrictions Memo.pdf
Date: Friday, April 2, 2021 7:21:00 AM
Attachments: [4-1-2021 - State Restrictions Memo.pdf](#)

U.S. COVID-19 Restrictions Overview

As of April 1, 2021, 32 states have mandatory statewide mask mandates, 23 states have statewide restrictions on restaurant occupancy, 11 states currently have a last call order in place ranging from 9 PM to 1 AM, 15 states are restricting capacity at places of worship, and 38 states have statewide restrictions on gatherings.

South Carolina is one of nine states (AK, GA, FL, IA, MT, SC, SD, TX, TN) without statewide restrictions. Despite mask mandates and other restrictions, South Carolina has had fewer cases per 100k in the last week than NY, MI, NJ, CA, IL, MA, NC, OH, VA, MN, CT, and CO.

In New Jersey, businesses are still limited to a 50% capacity—even churches—but they've had more deaths per capita than any other state. Their COVID case rate is trending up while South Carolina's is trending down. Twice as many people moved out of New Jersey as moved in, while the opposite is true in South Carolina—twice as many people moved in as moved out.

In New York, indoor gatherings in homes and private residences are limited to 10 people, and private outdoor gatherings are limited to 25 people. Even with those government restrictions, New York's COVID-19 death rate is second only to New Jersey, and New York's COVID case rate is trending up while South Carolina's is trending down. New York's unemployment rate is 8.9%, higher than South Carolina's at 5.2%. Twice as many people moved out of New York as moved in, while the opposite is true in South Carolina—twice as many people moved in as moved out.

In some parts of California, no indoor gatherings are allowed at all, and retail stores must limit capacity to 25%. California's unemployment rate is still at 8.5%, and 40% of California kids have still not been allowed to return to any in-person school, whereas South Carolina is working on every child getting back to school five days a week.

The most restrictive states are as follows:

California:

- **Masks:** Mandatory
- **Indoor Dining:** 25% capacity or up to 100 people. 50% in counties with less spread
- **Bars:** Most bars are closed. Open 50% in counties with less spread
- **Worship:** Outdoor only in most counties
- **Gathering Size:** Maximum of 3 households together

Oregon:

- **Masks:** Mandatory
- **Indoor Dining:** 50% capacity. Maximum 2 households per table.
- **Bars:** 50% capacity. Maximum 2 households per table.
- **Worship:** 75% capacity.
- **Gathering Size:** 10 people with a 4-household limit

Washington:

- **Masks:** Mandatory
- **Indoor Dining:** 50% capacity. Max 10 people per table.
- **Bars:** 50% capacity. Max 10 people per table.
- **Worship:** 50% capacity
- **Gathering Size:** 10 people at private residences. 50% capacity or 400 people at commercial venues.

State	Governor	Party	Date of Last Change	Mask Mandate	Dinning Capacity Restrictions	Worship Capacity Restrictions	Gathering Limits
Alabama	Kay Ivey	Republican	March 4, 2021	Yes	No	No	Yes
Alaska	Mike Dunleavy	Republican	February 14, 2021	No	No	No	No
Arizona	Doug Ducey	Republican	March 25, 2021	Certain settings	No	No	No
Arkansas	Asa Hutchinson	Republican	March 5, 2021	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
California	Gavin Newsom	Democratic	March 5, 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colorado	Jared Polis	Democratic	March 23, 2021	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Connecticut	Ned Lamont	Democratic	March 19, 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware	John C. Carney Jr.	Democratic	February 19, 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida	Ron DeSantis	Republican	Sep-20	No	No	No	No
Georgia	Brian Kemp	Republican	March 15, 2021	No	No	NO	No
Hawaii	David Ige	Democratic	March 16, 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Idaho	Brad Little	Republican	February 2, 2021	No	No	No	Yes
Illinois	J.B. Pritzker	Democratic	January 15, 2021	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Indiana	Eric Holcomb	Republican	February 25, 2021	Yes	No	No	Yes
Iowa	Kim Reynolds	Republican	February 7, 2021	No	No	No	No
Kansas	Laura Kelly	Democratic	November 1, 2020	Yes	No	No	Yes
Kentucky	Andy Beshear	Democratic	March 19, 2021	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Louisiana	John Bel Edwards	Democratic	March 3, 2021	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Maine	Janet T. Mills	Democratic	March 26, 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maryland	Larry Hogan	Republican	March 12, 2021	Yes	No	No	Yes
Massachusetts	Charles D. Baker	Republican	March 22, 2021	Yes	No	No	Yes
Michigan	Gretchen Whitmer	Democratic	March 19, 2021	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Minnesota	Tim Walz	Democratic	March 15, 2021	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Mississippi	Tate Reeves	Republican	December 11, 2020	No	No	No	Yes
Missouri	Mike Parson	Republican	November 19, 2020	No	No	No	Yes
Montana	Greg Gianforte	Republican	February 12, 2021	No	No	No	No
Nebraska	Pete Ricketts	Republican	December 14, 2020	Certain settings	No	No	Yes
Nevada	Steve Sisolak	Democratic	March 15, 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	Chris Sununu	Republican	March 23, 2021	Certain settings	No	No	No
New Jersey	Phil Murphy	Democratic	March 19, 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	Michelle Lujan Grisham	Democratic	February 24, 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New York	Andrew Cuomo	Democratic	March 19, 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Carolina	Roy Cooper	Democratic	March 26, 2021	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
North Dakota	Doug Burgum	Republican	January 29, 2021	No	Yes	No	No
Ohio	Mike DeWine	Republican	March 2, 2021	Yes	No	No	Yes
Oklahoma	Kevin Stitt	Republican	February 12, 2021	No	No	No	Yes
Oregon	Kate Brown	Democratic	December 3, 2020	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	Tom Wolf	Democratic	March 1, 2021	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Rhode Island	Gina Raimondo	Democratic	February 10, 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	Henry McMaster	Republican	March 1, 2021	No	No	No	No
South Dakota	Kristi L. Noem	Republican	April 28, 2020	No	No	No	No
Tennessee	Bill Lee	Republican	February 27, 2021	No	No	No	No
Texas	Greg Abbott	Republican	March 2, 2021	No	No	No	No
Utah	Spencer Cox	Republican	November 24, 2020	Yes	No	No	Yes
Vermont	Phil Scott	Republican	March 12, 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Virginia	Ralph Northam	Democratic	March 1, 2021	Yes	No	No	Yes
Washington	Jay Inslee	Democratic	January 11, 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia	Jim Justice	Republican	March 6, 2021	Yes	No	No	Yes
Wisconsin	Tony Evers	Democratic	May 13, 2020	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	Mark Gordon	Republican	March 12, 2021	Certain settings	No	No	Yes

From: Singh, Sym
To: Singh, Sym
Cc: Madison Hall
Bcc: ber2mat@aol.com; rnallison@charter.net; repcanderson@yahoo.com; atkinsonlucas@gmail.com; whbaileyymb@gmail.com; nathanballentine@sc.rr.com; jbamberg@bamberglegal.com; bhannister@bannisterwyatt.com; linbennett@schouse.gov; beth@bblawsc.com; bart@bsmachinetool.com; j23jeffbradley@gmail.com; wendybrawley@schouse.gov; case@brittainlawfirm.com; bmb50@outlook.com; imburns55@gmail.com; imbustos@comcast.net; pcalhoon2011@gmail.com; icarter@ncees.org; micah@micahcaskey.com; billchumley1@gmail.com; billclyburn@schouse.gov; gildacobbhunter@schouse.gov; william@wecco.com; Collins, Neal; westcox@coxandcole.com; bobby.cox@sigsgauer.com; heatherammonscrawford@gmail.com; votevicdabney@gmail.com; jdaning@comcast.net; syllestedavis@gmail.com; chandra.dillard@furman.edu; jelliott@jasonelliottlaw.com; repshannonerickson@gmail.com; raye26@comporium.net; kfinlay@chllc.net; calforrest@gmail.com; russellwilliamfry@gmail.com; cgaanon@wctel.net; kambrellgarvin@gmail.com; gilgatch@gmail.com; douggilliam@schouse.gov; wgilly@bellsouth.net; jerrygovanh95@gmail.com; patrick@piedmont-es.com; kihardee@sccoast.net; chris@chrishartlaw.com; jackiehayes@schouse.gov; rosalynehenderson-myers@schouse.gov; henegan7@aol.com; mfdusa@aol.com; lhewitt@gardencityrealty.com; jhill9693@gmail.com; hiott@bellsouth.net; bill@hixonco.com; lonniehosey@schouse.gov; leonhoward@schouse.gov; chip@duraclean.net; max@maxhydelawfirm.com; joejefferson@tds.net; jeffjohnsondistrict58@gmail.com; kimjohnsonmsw@yahoo.com; info@johnsonforsc.com; stewart@votestew.com; wallacejordan2@gmail.com; mandy@mkimmonsllaw.com; johnking@schouse.gov; rogerkirby61@gmail.com; randvligon@theligoncompany.com; stevenlongsc@gmail.com; lowestherapy@cs.com; jilucaslaw@gmail.com; j@magnumsonsc.com; batteryman4@aol.com; VoteRJMAY@gmail.com; d.ryan.mccabe@gmail.com; JohnMcCravy@schouse.gov; mcdanielae@yahoo.com; SandyMcGarrySC44@gmail.com; timmcainis@mac.com; cezar@cezarmcknight.com; jamoore4schools@gmail.com; Travis A. Moore; adam@maiestymusic.com; dennismoss29@gmail.com; bigrocksc@gmail.com; chris@murphyllawfirmllc.com; ChardaleMurraytowncouncil@gmail.com; newtonbrandon6@gmail.com; wnewton@jsplaw.net; roger@rogernutt.com; melissa.oremus@gmail.com; legare4@yahoo.com; anneparks@embarqmail.com; info@marvinpendarvis.com; tpope@elrodpope.com; mfriversr@gmail.com; robinsimp@charter.net; sethcrose@gmail.com; toddrutherford@gmail.com; bill@sandifer.us; kbarace10@gmail.com; garysimrill@gmail.com; gary@garysmith.org; murrell@smithrobinsonlaw.com; mark@McAlister-Smith.com; leon@stavlaw.net; tommy@stringercompany.com; bill@taylorschouse.com; teddert@gmail.com; aithav@charter.net; ivorythigpen79@gmail.com; ashleytrantham@schouse.gov; jdavid2453@yahoo.com; west.it1964@gmail.com; elizabethspencerwetmore@gmail.com; wwheeler@jenningsfirm.net; wbrian.white@charter.net; whitmire5@yahoo.com; robertwilliams@schouse.gov; shedronw@hotmail.com; willisforhouse@gmail.com; chriswooten@schouse.gov; richleyow@yahoo.com

Subject: Gov. Henry McMaster Issues Order Empowering Parents to Decide On Masks in Schools, Restricts Local Mask Mandates, and Prohibits Vaccine Passports

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:18:00 PM

Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Gov. Henry McMaster Issues Order Empowering Parents to Decide On Masks in Schools, Restricts Local Mask Mandates, and Prohibits Vaccine Passports

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Henry McMaster today issued [Executive Order 2021-23](#), which empowers South Carolina parents to decide whether their children should wear masks in public schools throughout the state. The governor's order also explicitly prohibits any county or local governments in the state from relying on prior orders or using a state of emergency as the basis for a local mask mandate and bars all state agencies, local governments, and political subdivisions from requiring what has commonly been referred to as "vaccine passports" for any reason.

With regard to mask requirements in public schools, the governor has directed DHEC - in consultation with the S.C. Department of Education - to develop and distribute a standardized form a parent or legal guardian may sign to opt their child out of mask requirements imposed by any public school official or public school district.

"We have known for months that our schools are some of the safest places when it comes to COVID-19," said Governor Henry McMaster. "With every adult in our state having the opportunity to receive a vaccine, it goes against all logic to continue to force our children – especially our youngest children – to wear masks against their parents' wishes. Whether a child wears a mask in school is a decision that should be left only to a student's parents."

Concerning local ordinances, the governor's executive order explicitly prohibits any county or local governments throughout the state from relying on prior orders or a state of emergency as the

basis for a local mask mandate.

"With the COVID-19 vaccine readily available and case numbers dropping, I will not allow local governments to use the state of emergency declaration as a reason for implementing or maintaining mask mandates," said Gov. McMaster. "Everybody knows what we need to do to stay safe – including wearing a mask if you're at risk of exposing others – but we must move past the time of governments dictating when and where South Carolinians are required to wear a mask. Maintaining the status quo ignores all of the great progress we've made."

Additionally, the governor's order prohibits any local government, state agency, state employee, or any political subdivision of the state from requiring South Carolinians to provide proof of their vaccination status as a condition for receiving any government services or gaining access to any building, facility, or geographic location. [As Governor McMaster recently said](#): "Vaccine passports will have no place in South Carolina. The very idea is un-American to its core."

###



Sym Singh
Director of Legislative Affairs
Office of the Governor
SSingh@governor.sc.gov
Cell: 803-201-9770
Office: 803-734-9271

From: [Singh, Sym](#)
To: [Tom Corbin \(corbinlawn@bellsouth.net\)](mailto:corbinlawn@bellsouth.net)
Subject: Gov. Henry McMaster Issues Order Empowering Parents to Decide On Masks in Schools, Restricts Local Mask Mandates, and Prohibits Vaccine Passports
Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021 10:42:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good Morning,

Attached and below is the DHEC Parental Waiver for Face Masks. You may have heard from many of your constituents regarding this waiver per Executive Order 2021-23, which empowers South Carolina parents to decide whether their children should wear masks in public schools throughout the state.

DHEC's form is posted here - <https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/D-428G.pdf>.

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-###-



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Director of Legislative Affairs
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Cell: 803-201-9770
Office: 803-734-9271

From: Singh, Sym
To: Singh, Sym
Bcc: alexandersoffice@bellsouth.net; rexricesenate@gmail.com; richardcashsc@gmail.com; mwgambrell@bellsouth.net; corbinlawn@bellsouth.net; dwight.loftis@gmail.com; karlallen@scsenate.gov; Ross@turneragencyinc.com; dannyverdin@gmail.com; billygarrettir@yahoo.com; josh@exodusaircraft.com; scott@talleylawfirm.com; shane@senatormartin.com; hpeeler@peelerco.com; wclimer@gmail.com; Michael@MichaelJohnsonforSenate.com; fanningforsenate@gmail.com; ronniecromer@bellsouth.net; jscottbyos@aol.com; rah@harpootlianlaw.com; darrelljackson27@gmail.com; mia@scsenate.gov; katrinashealy@gmail.com; tyoung@tomyounglaw.com; asmlaw30@bellsouth.net; nikki@setzler-scott.com; penrygustafson@gmail.com; hembree@sc.rr.com; G. Malloy; kentlogan@aol.com; hughkleatherman@gmail.com; ronniesabb@sabblaw.com; luke@rankinandrankin.com; stephengoldfinch@gmail.com; tmcelveen@bryanlaw.com; kevin27@sc.rr.com; votegrooms@aol.com; sbennett@assetintegration.com; vstephens7673@yahoo.com; cbhutto@williamsattys.com; sandy@sennlegal.com; mkimpon@motleyrice.com; ccampsen@gmail.com; brian.adamsforsc@gmail.com; margie@brightmatthewslaw.com; tdavis@harveyandbattey.com
Subject: Gov. Henry McMaster Issues Order Empowering Parents to Decide On Masks in Schools, Restricts Local Mask Mandates, and Prohibits Vaccine Passports
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:19:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

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Sym Singh
Director of Legislative Affairs
Office of the Governor
SSingh@governor.sc.gov
Cell: 803-201-9770
Office: 803-734-9271

From: [M Burns](#)
To: [Singh, Sym](#)
Subject: [External] Re: Gov. Henry McMaster Issues Order Empowering Parents to Decide On Masks in Schools, Restricts Local Mask Mandates, and Prohibits Vaccine Passports
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:24:03 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Finally... Thank him for us... Freedom again at last

On Tue, May 11, 2021 at 5:18 PM Singh, Sym <SSingh@governor.sc.gov> wrote:

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Sym Singh
Director of Legislative Affairs
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Cell: 803-201-9770
Office: 803-734-9271

--

Mike Burns

864- [REDACTED] (Cell)
864- [REDACTED] (Home)

From: [Brandon Smith](#)
To: [Singh, Sym](#)
Subject: [External] RE: Gov. Henry McMaster Issues Order Empowering Parents to Decide On Masks in Schools, Restricts Local Mask Mandates, and Prohibits Vaccine Passports
Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:59:17 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks! Hope all is well. Let's catch up soon

Brandon A. Smith
Certified Mediator
[104 Maxwell Avenue](#) (29646)
Post Office Box 1810 (29648)
Greenwood, South Carolina
[\(864\) 229-4076](#) (phone)
[\(844\) 270-6344](#) (fax)

From: Singh, Sym [<mailto:SSingh@governor.sc.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:22 PM
To: Brandon Smith <bsmith@basmithlaw.com>
Subject: FW: Gov. Henry McMaster Issues Order Empowering Parents to Decide On Masks in Schools, Restricts Local Mask Mandates, and Prohibits Vaccine Passports
Importance: High

Fyi.



Sym Singh
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Cell: 803-201-9770
Office: 803-734-9271

From: Singh, Sym <SSingh@governor.sc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:20 PM
To: Singh, Sym <SSingh@governor.sc.gov>
Subject: Gov. Henry McMaster Issues Order Empowering Parents to Decide On Masks in Schools, Restricts Local Mask Mandates, and Prohibits Vaccine Passports
Importance: High

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schools throughout the state. The governor's order also explicitly prohibits any county or local governments in the state from relying on prior orders or using a state of emergency as the basis for a local mask mandate and bars all state agencies, local governments, and political subdivisions from requiring what has commonly been referred to as "vaccine passports" for any reason.

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Additionally, the governor's order prohibits any local government, state agency, state employee, or any political subdivision of the state from requiring South Carolinians to provide proof of their vaccination status as a condition for receiving any government services or gaining access to any building, facility, or geographic location. [As Governor McMaster recently said](#): "Vaccine passports will have no place in South Carolina. The very idea is un-American to its core."

-###-



Sym Singh
Director of Legislative Affairs
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SSingh@governor.sc.gov
Cell: 803-201-9770
Office: 803-734-9271

From: [Adam Taylor](#)
To: [Singh, Sym](#)
Subject: [External] Re: Gov. Henry McMaster Issues Order Empowering Parents to Decide On Masks in Schools, Restricts Local Mask Mandates, and Prohibits Vaccine Passports
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 7:12:13 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Thanks for sharing.

Sent from my iPad

On May 11, 2021, at 5:21 PM, Singh, Sym <SSingh@governor.sc.gov> wrote:

FYI.



Sym Singh
Director of Legislative Affairs
Office of the Governor
SSingh@governor.sc.gov
Cell: 803-201-9770
Office: 803-734-9271

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Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:20 PM
To: Singh, Sym <SSingh@governor.sc.gov>
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Cell: 803-201-9770
Office: 803-734-9271

From: [Singh, Sym](#)
To: [J. Adam Taylor - Lander University \(ataylor@lander.edu\)](mailto:ataylor@lander.edu)
Subject: FW: Gov. Henry McMaster Issues Order Empowering Parents to Decide On Masks in Schools, Restricts Local Mask Mandates, and Prohibits Vaccine Passports
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:21:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

FYI.



Sym Singh
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Cell: 803-201-9770
Office: 803-734-9271

From: Singh, Sym <SSingh@governor.sc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:20 PM
To: Singh, Sym <SSingh@governor.sc.gov>
Subject: Gov. Henry McMaster Issues Order Empowering Parents to Decide On Masks in Schools, Restricts Local Mask Mandates, and Prohibits Vaccine Passports
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From: [Singh, Sym](mailto:Singh_Sym)
To: bsmith@basmithlaw.com
Subject: FW: Gov. Henry McMaster Issues Order Empowering Parents to Decide On Masks in Schools, Restricts Local Mask Mandates, and Prohibits Vaccine Passports
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:21:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Fyi.



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Cell: 803-201-9770
Office: 803-734-9271

From: Singh, Sym <SSingh@governor.sc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:20 PM
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Subject: Gov. Henry McMaster Issues Order Empowering Parents to Decide On Masks in Schools, Restricts Local Mask Mandates, and Prohibits Vaccine Passports
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Cell: 803-201-9770
Office: 803-734-9271

From: [Singh, Sym](#)
To: rhines@lexrich5.org
Subject: FW: Gov. Henry McMaster Issues Order Empowering Parents to Decide On Masks in Schools, Restricts Local Mask Mandates, and Prohibits Vaccine Passports
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:25:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



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Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:20 PM
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From: [Walker, Trey](#)
To: [Barton, Melanie](#); [Symmes, Brian](#); [Jones, Sheila](#); [Lemoine, Leigh](#)
Subject: Fwd: [External] SCPTA plan to force a mask mandate
Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 9:26:43 AM
Attachments: [Flood The Governor.pdf](#)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Elizabeth Rowell [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 9:09:42 AM
To: Walker, Trey <twalker@governor.sc.gov>
Subject: [External] SCPTA plan to force a mask mandate

Good morning;

I received the attached from SCPTA last night and wanted to let someone know about it. I completely disagree. I am a board member of the PTA at Sevier Middle School in Greenville, SC, and the SCPTA does not speak for me. I do not appreciate this at all. There should not be a mask mandate for children in school. Governor McMaster was absolutely right to leave that decision up to the parents.

Evidently, this was sent out by the Advocacy Chair for the SCPTA and no other PTA boards were consulted.

Please pass this along to whoever needs to know and do not allow this bullying tactic to sway any future decisions. The SCPTA does not speak for parents in the State of South Carolina..

Thank you,
Elizabeth Rowell

**TALKING POINTS
FOR
PROVISO 1.108**

FLOOD THE GOVERNOR

ALLOW SC SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO
PROTECT OUR STUDENTS AND REQUIRE
MASKS IN SCHOOL.

GIVE HIM A CALL OR EMAIL (see below)
Email your local City Councils, County Councils,
and School Districts to share your concerns.

GOVERNOR HENRY MCMASTER
PH: 803-734-2100

CHIEF OF STAFF TREY WALKER
EMAIL: TWALKER@GOVERNOR.SC.GOV

2022-02-18 Response to K. Shaw FOIA Request 023

TALKING POINTS

The health and wellbeing of the children in South Carolina should be of the utmost priority.

Children need to be in school in person, but it is imperative that our elected officials provide the safest environment possible for students. Disruptions from quarantines and school closures could be prevented by requiring masks for everyone.

Masks are a simple, safe, proven mitigation strategy that can help prevent the spread of Covid in our schools.

In South Carolina, one school district has had to make the move to virtual after too many students and teachers got sick from Covid. Another school district has nearly 7% of all of their students in quarantine. Heartbreakingly, a teenager lost their life to Covid this week. We must do everything we can to protect our children.

School is about to start for the majority of SC students and many children's hospitals are already near or over capacity. The highly contagious Delta variant and RSV are already taking a toll and our hospital systems are simply not prepared for the potential influx of children not being protected by masks. The Medical University of South Carolina followed up on reported side effects of mask wearing in children and only temporary rashes were noted. Proper mask protocols have been proven safe and effective in children.

It is the duty of the Governor and all of the elected officials in the state of South Carolina to do what is right and keep our children safe and in school. Reverse Proviso 1.108 and allow SC school districts to protect our students and require masks in school.

Legal precedents have been set in other states with bans on mask mandates where judges are ruling to allow school districts to require masks.

2022-02-18 Response to K. Shaw FOIA Request 024

From: Simpson, Cody
To: [REDACTED]@hpeprint.com
Date: Friday, September 10, 2021 7:33:07 AM

Mask Ordinance In Effect Beginning 6 AM, Friday, September 10, 2021, through Monday, October 10, 2021

City of West Columbia City Council Passes Emergency Face Covering Ordinance

West Columbia, SC (September 8, 2021, at 5:41 PM) – During its September 8, 2021, Special Council Meeting, the City of West Columbia City Council passed an emergency ordinance requiring face coverings in certain establishments in the city. The ordinance goes into effect on Friday, September 10, 2021, at 6 AM, and expires on the 31st day, October 11, 2021. A summary of the ordinance is below.

Businesses, where masks are required, must place a “Notice” (poster, placard, or notification, which shall be at least 8”x11”) in a conspicuous place notifying the public of the requirement to wear a face covering.

Face coverings must be worn inside any Foodservice Establishment, Retail Establishment, Hair Salons, Nail Salons, Barber Shops, Personal Hygiene Establishments, Medical Offices, and City Buildings including:

- (a) grocery stores;
- (b) pharmacies;
- (c) commercial stores engaged in the retail sale of goods or services to the public including
 - a. sporting goods stores;
 - b. furniture and home-furnishings stores;
 - c. clothing, shoe, and clothing-accessory stores;
 - d. jewelry, luggage, and leather goods stores;
 - e. department stores;
 - f. hardware and home-improvement stores;
 - g. book, craft, and music stores;
 - h. florists and flower stores;
 - i. bars and taverns;
 - j. all other stores that sell supplies for household consumption or use;
- (d) alcoholic beverage stores; and
- (e) laundromats.

All Foodservice Establishments and Retail Establishments within the City must require every employee to wear a Face Covering at all times while having face-to-face interaction with the public or other employees or where social distancing of at least six feet cannot be observed at all times.

Face Covering will not be required:

- (i) by any person who is unable to safely wear a Face Covering due to age or an underlying health condition;
- (ii) by any person who is physically unable to remove the Face Covering without the

assistance of others;
(iii) by all persons 2 years of age or under;
(iv) all persons whose religious beliefs prevent them from wearing a Face Covering;
(v) any person in a private or individual office;
(vi) where it is not feasible to wear a Face Covering, including
a. persons receiving oral health services,
b. persons swimming,
c. engaging in athletic activities;
(vii) for patrons of Foodservice Establishments while they are dining; and
(viii) by police officers, firefighters, and other first responders when not practical or engaged in a public safety matter of an emergency nature.

Upon written request to the City, a Retail Establishment having the ability to isolate customers from employees and maintain social distancing may request a waiver of the Face Covering requirements. Waiver forms will be available from the City and submitted for registration and filing with the City. Copies of waiver forms and registration will be available via the City's website: www.westcolumbiasc.gov. Grocery stores, Pharmacies, Hair Salons, Nail Salons, Barber Shops, Personal Hygiene Establishments, Food Service Establishments, and Medical Offices are not eligible for the exemption.

Violations are a civil infraction and will result in a fine of not more than \$25.00 for each violation.

No person shall be required to disclose any information or provide any actual evidence as to their individual qualification for any exemption.

Complaints about violations can be made by calling the West Columbia Hotline at 803-939-8627.

Mayor Tem Miles said, "We have stayed in touch with Lexington Medical Center throughout the pandemic. It was always us reaching out to them for advice. A week ago, they sent a letter to every Mayor and Leader of the cities and counties and asked for our help to protect our community by passing a mask mandate. The hospitals are not able to provide the standard of care they want and normally can provide due to the overload from unvaccinated patients at the hospital. The vaccination helps prevent those issues. What cannot be prevented are the car wrecks, heart attacks, and open-heart surgery patients who can no longer get those surgeries due to the strain that the pandemic is putting on our health care system. This decision is based on a 100% health care crisis on our health care system."