



**FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Jan H. Gardner  
*County Executive*

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
DECEMBER 16, 2021

CONTACT: [Vivian Laxton](#)  
Communications Director, 301-600-1315

## **Mask Use Advised in Indoor Public Spaces** *County Facilities Remain Open by Appointment through Expected Winter Surge*

FREDERICK, Md. –Frederick County is experiencing a rapid rise in hospitalizations from COVID-19. Because of the high rate of community transmission during a time of holiday gatherings, Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner is advising individuals to wear masks in all indoor public spaces, regardless of a person’s vaccination status. Hospitalizations have increased by 50% over the past week. On Wednesday, the number of COVID patients stood at 60, with 14 in the intensive care unit.

“Everyone needs to do their part to protect our loved ones and vulnerable people in our community,” Executive Gardner said. “I encourage churches and businesses to strongly consider requiring their visitors to wear masks during this busy time of year. Please wear a mask in indoor public spaces, and if you haven’t already, get your vaccine or booster shot. The winter surge is preventable if everyone would get vaccinated, tested, and follow health advisories.”

Because Frederick County is experiencing high transmission and a sharply rising number of COVID hospitalizations, and the rate of transmission is expected to continue to rise during the holidays and winter months, Frederick County Government will maintain its current operating status until Monday, April 4, 2022. Throughout this pandemic, divisions have adapted and continued to deliver 100% of all services provided to county residents. The County Government has never shut down. Residents are reminded that masks must continue to be worn in all County buildings, including in Frederick County Public Libraries and on TransIT buses.

###