CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

June 9, 2021

City of Portsmouth Repeals Mask Ordinance

Portsmouth, New Hampshire – At its June 7, 2021, the Portsmouth City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Third Reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 3, Article XI, Face Coverings During COVID-19 Pandemic.

The repeal of the mask ordinance was effective immediately. Masks are not required to be worn outdoors or indoors in Portsmouth.

Portsmouth Public Schools retain the mask requirement through the June 18 end of the school year. Portsmouth Public Library requests all patrons and staff continue to wear masks due to the number of children under 12.

However, the City continues to support CDC and NH DHHS guidance that businesses and organizations may require masks on their property and that mask wearing is an effective Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention against COVID-19, along with vaccination.

The City Health Officer noted that while the COVID-19 positivity rate in Rockingham County has finally gone below 1% and adults are largely vaccinated, those between 12 and 15 years of age are just receiving their second vaccinations now and will not be fully vaccinated until July 1. In addition, there is still no vaccine approved for children under 12, so families should be cautious about gatherings wiith people outside of their immediate household.