

**2021-864**  
**November 17, 2021**

**STATE OF EMERGENCY**

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that has contributed to the deaths of over 760,000 Americans and 10,000 Kentuckians over the past 20 months.

Under the powers provided by the Kentucky Constitution and Kentucky Revised Statutes, including KRS Chapter 39A, I declared by Executive Order 2020-215 on March 6, 2020, that a State of Emergency exists in the Commonwealth. The General Assembly has continued that State of Emergency.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved three COVID-19 vaccines, which have been proven through numerous studies to be both safe and highly effective in preventing the deleterious health effects associated with COVID-19, including serious illness, hospitalization, and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), the Delta variant is nearly twice as contagious as previous COVID-19 variants, and fully vaccinated people with Delta variant breakthrough infections can spread the virus to others. The ongoing spread of COVID-19 in Kentucky caused by the Delta variant continues to pose a serious risk to the health and safety of all Kentuckians.

In response to the Delta variant and studies indicating that booster doses may help prevent symptomatic cases of COVID-19, the FDA authorized booster doses to be administered two months after the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine to any adult. The FDA also authorized booster doses to be administered six months after the last dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine to, among others, any adult who works or lives in high-risk settings.

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**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by virtue of authority vested in me pursuant to the Constitution of Kentucky and KRS Chapter 39A, do hereby Order and Direct the following:

1. The entire Commonwealth of Kentucky is at high risk for exposure or transmission of COVID-19.
2. All individuals 18 years of age or older living or working in the Commonwealth of Kentucky are now eligible to receive a safe and effective booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

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ANDY BESHEAR, Governor  
Commonwealth of Kentucky

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MICHAEL G. ADAMS  
Secretary of State