



## For Immediate Release

April 19, 2021

OZARK, MO --- On Monday April 19, 2021, Mayor Bradley Jackson will rescind the executive Mask Covering Ordinance effective April 22nd, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. after careful consideration of declining cases, vaccination efforts of the Christian County Health Department, and the wishes of Ozark's residents.

The new expiration date will lift the mask ordinance across the City of Ozark and its businesses. However, Ozark businesses can still require customers to wear masks when on store property if the business so chooses. The City of Ozark implores residents and visitors of Ozark to be respectful of a business's decision to require or not require masks.

"With the consistent declining number of positive cases, the growing number of vaccinations and the availability of vaccine for all our residents, my constituents feel that it is time to remove the mandate and have encouraged this decision. I do want to make sure everyone knows that just because there will no longer be a mandate, that does not mean you have to unmask if you feel that you need that layer of protection. Some business owners may decide to keep a mask order in place on their property and we should be respectful of their wishes at their place of business," said Mayor Bradley Jackson

The City of Ozark will continue working with local and state officials on best practices regarding COVID-19 and encourages the public to heed warnings from the CDC and local health experts of potential surges. The fight against COVID-19 is not over, and the City asks that the public remain vigilant and responsible by getting vaccinated, social distancing, and wearing a mask if unable to remain six feet apart from others.

The Christian County Health Department is offering COVID-19 vaccines and requests that calls be made to 417-581-7285 if interested in receiving one. If you are feeling sick with COVID-19 symptoms, please seek medical attention and/or stay home to alleviate the risk of spreading disease.

"The past year has been a very difficult time for our entire community, and I feel better days are within reach. I hope that our community can continue to come together and support one another as we transition out of this pandemic. I encourage all members of our community to send a message of thank you to all of our frontline workers that helped keep us safe during this past year and please also remember our local business owners that were affected by changes beyond their control," added Mayor Jackson. "We must continue to support our local business community and rebuild our economy."

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