

Good Evening and Happy Wednesday Memphis.



Supporting Efforts to Keep All Memphians Safe:

Although we are in the midst of the holiday season, the City of Memphis – like many municipalities across the country – is enduring challenges presented by continuously increasing COVID-19 cases.

By the numbers, hospital ICU utilization within our region has exceeded **90%** each day since December 7. Furthermore, over the last seven days, Shelby County has averaged over **670** new cases per day. Meanwhile, our daily positivity rates have climbed as high as **28.3%**.

Taken together, our present reality places a strain upon our local health care systems that *must* be addressed.

On December 21, the Shelby County Health Department took action, issuing Health Directive No. 16, i.e., a new Safer-At-Home Order that will take effect from December 26, 2020 through January 22, 2021.

During the four-week period, you are asked to **remain home as much as possible**. Per the order, retail capacity will be reduced to 50%, and indoor dining capacity will be set at 25%. Additionally, employers are strongly encouraged to allow non-essential employees to work remotely where

feasible. Finally, social gatherings should be curtailed as they unnecessarily risk the spread of the virus within our community.

On Tuesday, the Council reconvened to discuss Health Directive No. 16. After considering the facts presented by Dr. Alisa Haushalter, Dr. Manoj Jain, and Dr. Jeff Warren, the Council passed a resolution supporting the Shelby County Health Department issuing a new Safer-At-Home Order. In short, we believe doing so is necessary to save lives.

With that in mind, as we approach Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve, I urge you all to follow Health Directive No. 16 by remaining home, and avoiding social gatherings. Our actions at this critical moment are key to keeping all Memphians safe. Note: If you do find yourself interacting with individuals from outside of your household, remember: **wear a mask**, distance yourself by six feet, and wash your hands.

We can do this, Memphis. Let's step up for the purpose of protecting our families, friends, and neighbors!

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If you were not able to virtually participate in the meeting via live-stream on the Council website or YouTube, a full review is provided, [here](#).

***Health Directive No. 16 can be viewed, [here](#).

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Take care and happy holidays!

With earnest appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrice J. Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrice Jordan Robinson
Chairwoman, Memphis City Council
District 3