



# Official City Council Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2020

Office of the City Clerk

CITY HALL 2 PARK PLAZA | 6:30 PM

## Official Minutes

The public is advised that the following minutes are not a verbatim transcription of business presented at the Council Meeting of the date shown; but are a synopsis of pertinent information. The public is further advised that the tapes recorded at said meeting are a matter of public record and are available to be heard at the City of Alpharetta's Clerk's office during normal business hours.

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- *Mayor Gilvin called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.*

### II. ROLL CALL

#### • Council Members

- o Mayor Jim Gilvin
- o Mayor Pro Tem Donald F. Mitchell
- o Jason Binder
- o Ben Burnett
- o John Hipes
- o Dan Merkel
- o Karen Richard

#### • Staff

- o Bob Regus, City Administrator
- o Steven Jones, Asst. City Attorney
- o James Drinkard, Asst. City Administrator
- o Erin Cobb, City Clerk
- o Pete Sewczwicz, Director of Public Works
- o Morgan Rodgers, Director of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- o Tom Harris, Director of Finance
- o Kathi Cook, Director of Community Development
- o Cris Randall, Director of Human Resources
- o Michael Woodman, Senior Planner

### III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

### IV. PRESENTATIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

#### A. Gift of Life Proclamation

### V. CONSENT AGENDA

#### A. Council Meeting Minutes (Meeting of 8/10/2020)

❖ Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell offered a motion to approve the consent agenda

- The motion received a second from Council Member Burnett
- The motion was approved unanimously (7-0)

### VI. PUBLIC HEARING

#### A. PH-20-10 North Point Mall Redevelopment/Change to Conditions of Zoning

*This item has been deferred by the Applicant to Monday, September 28th and will be neither heard nor considered during this meeting.*

#### B. V-20-09 Hamilton Hotel Exterior Material Variance

- Senior Planner, Michael Woodman, came forward to present this item.
- Staff is recommending that Mayor and Council approve V-20-09 Hamilton Hotel Exterior Material Variance, subject to the following conditions:
  1. EIFS, or synthetic stucco, shall be permitted as an exterior finish material on the Hamilton Hotel building and limited to the areas depicted on the submitted elevations at the rear of the building.
- The applicant, MF Cotton House Development, LLC, is requesting a variance to allow EIFS, or synthetic stucco, as an exterior material on the rear elevation of the Hamilton Hotel. The Downtown Code allows for the use of hard coat stucco but does not allow for the use of synthetic stucco on walls visible from a street. The subject property is located at 21 Milton Avenue, at the northwest corner of Milton Avenue and Old Canton Street.
- The submitted request, if approved, would allow EIFS (Exterior Insulation Finish System), or synthetic stucco, as an exterior finish material on the rear elevation of the Hamilton Hotel and within the interior walls of the amenity area. The Downtown Overlay allows for the use of hard coat stucco, but does not allow synthetic stucco, or EIFS, on walls visible from a street. The subject property is located at 21 Milton Avenue, at the northwest corner of Milton Avenue and Old Canton Street.
- The 0.97-acre property is zoned DT-C (Downtown Core) and is currently being developed with the 119-room Hamilton Boutique Hotel. All surrounding properties are zoned C-2 (General Commercial), except that the property to the east is zoned OSR (Open Space and Recreational). Adjacent properties are Old Milton Park and Mercantile Social to the east, Waters Building, Truck & Tap and Ceviche to the south, future Aria Salon building and an undeveloped commercial property to the west and Oxygen Financial and Rivers Academy to the north.

- Unified Development Code (UDC) Appendix A: Alpharetta Downtown Code requires that exterior finish materials on walls visible from a street or civic space be limited to brick, manufactured stone, architectural block, natural stone, wood siding, cement-based siding, cement-based panels, and/or hard coat stucco. The applicant requests a variance to allow for the use of synthetic stucco, or EIFS, on the rear elevation of the building within the interior walls of the amenity area. Synthetic stucco is not permitted on the rear elevation of the Hotel because it would be visible from Old Canton Road. According to the applicant, the detailed work required to provide the desired architectural details is not feasible with the use of hard coat stucco. The applicant provided a letter from MM Company, Inc., which is a certified subcontractor to install EIFS and stucco systems. The letter states that the design architectural look of the building cornice and accent details cannot be achieved using hard coat stucco. According to MM Company Inc., using hard coat stucco has the potential for system failures due to the desired thickness of the stucco, there is a lack of drainage efficiency and thermal resistance with a stucco system, and a stucco system would change the look of the building because it would require more control and reveal joints.
- The City of Alpharetta Unified Development Code Article IV, Section 4.5.3 outlines the criteria set forth for granting a variance. The ordinance specifically states..."a variance may be granted in whole or in part, or with conditions, in such individual case of unnecessary hardship upon a finding that":

- (1) There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the piece of property in question because of its size, shape, or topography; or

Response: The unusual shape of the property does not directly contribute the applicant's requested variance. However, the detailed work required to provide the desired architectural details on the building is not feasible with the use of hard coat stucco.

- (2) The application of the Ordinance to this particular piece of property would create an unnecessary hardship; or

Response: The application of the Alpharetta Downtown Code requirements related to exterior finish materials could alter the desired look of the hotel building and potentially lead to system failures that could compromise the building envelope.

- (3) There are conditions that are peculiar to the property which adversely affect its reasonable use or usability as currently zoned; or

Response: The requested variance is related to the desired look of the building, which has been conditioned by City Council and approved by the Design Review Board (DRB). The detailed work required to provide the desired architectural details on the building is not feasible with the use of hard coat stucco.

- (4) Relief, if granted, would not cause substantial detriment to the public good or impair the purpose and intent of the City of Alpharetta ordinances.

Response: Approval of the requested variance should not cause substantial detriment to the public good. The requested variance specifically relates to the rear elevation of the building and within the interior walls of the amenity area. Conditions are recommended limiting the use of EIFS to the areas depicted on the submitted elevations and at the rear of the building.

- City Staff has reviewed the applicant's proposal and finds that it can generally support the requested variance to allow EIFS, or synthetic stucco, as an exterior finish material on the rear elevation of the Hamilton Hotel. The applicant provided a letter from a certified subcontractor to install EIFS and stucco systems stating that the use of EIFS would maintain the desired look of the building and reduce the potential for system failures within the building envelope.
- The report submitted by the applicant states that property owners within 500' were contacted regarding the applicant's intent. The report states that no comments were received.
- The CZIM was held on August 12, 2020. There was a question as to whether or not synthetic stucco was the same as EIFS. The applicant affirmed that.
- The applicant, John Boniface, 26 Milton Avenue, Alpharetta, GA came forward on behalf of the item.

**Public Comment:**

- No Public Comment
- ❖ Council Member Richard offered a motion to approve V-20-09 Hamilton Hotel Exterior Material Variance, subject to the following condition:
  1. EIFS, or synthetic stucco, shall be permitted as an exterior finish material on the Hamilton Hotel building and limited to the areas depicted on the submitted elevations at the rear of the building.
  - The motion received a second from Council Member Binder
  - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0)

**C. CU-20-03/V-20-10 Spirit of God Church/1200 Upper Hembree Road**

- Senior Planner, Michael Woodman, came forward to present this item.
- This item was heard at the 8/6/2020 Planning Commission meeting. Staff recommended approval subject to 16 conditions. There were no public comments. After discussion, Planning Commission recommended approval subject to staff's recommended conditions and adding a sentence to condition #11 addressing the connection of the parking lots. Planning Commission changes highlighted below. Vote 5-0
- Staff is recommending approval of CU-20-03/V-20-10 Spirit of God Christian Church/1200 Upper Hembree Road, subject to the following conditions:
  1. 'Church, Synagogue' shall be a permitted use at 1200 Upper Hembree Road and shall be limited to Spirit of God Christian Church. The sanctuary, or assembly area, shall be limited to no more than 250 seats. Church-related services shall be limited to Sunday worship service, weekday Bible Study, administrative office, and occasional church-related services such as, weddings, baptisms, funerals, or similar services. Residential use of the building is prohibited. Occasional overnight stays in accordance with religious practices is permitted.

2. Property shall be developed substantially similar to plans by Rhodes Engineering Services, Inc., dated 7/8/2020, except for modifications required to comply with the conditions below.
3. Developer shall install minimum 6' planting strip with street trees, 6' sidewalk and curb and gutter along the property frontage on Upper Hembree Road and Harris Road. In addition, pedestrian lighting shall be provided at approximately 120' on center, as approved by Staff.
4. Building shall be limited to no more than 1 story, with mezzanine, over a basement and no more than 22,211 SF.
5. Building shall be primarily brick or stone on 3 sides with a gable roof and compatible with the residential character of the area, as approved by DRB.
6. Church building shall connect to the public sidewalk.
7. Corner of Harris Rd and Upper Hembree Rd shall have heavy decorative landscaping, as approved by DRB.
8. Required landscape strips shall be exclusive of overhead utilities and easements.
9. Dumpster enclosure shall be masonry to match the church with a metal opaque gate, as approved by DRB.
10. Retaining walls visible from the street shall be decorative, as approved by DRB. Retaining walls shall maintain a min. 5' setback from the undisturbed buffer and shall not impact trees within the buffer. Retaining walls visible from off-site shall exceed 6' in height.
11. On-site parking shall be limited to the two (2) parking areas depicted on the site plan prepared by Rhodes Engineering Services, Inc., dated 7/8/2020. Rear parking area shall be screened from Harris Road including supplementing with evergreens, if existing vegetation does not provide a screen, as approved by DRB. Applicant will work with staff to consider the location and configuration of a connection between the 2 parking lots, if feasible.
12. Off-site parking agreement and shuttle/valet service shall be maintained with the operation of the church. A copy of the off-site parking agreement shall be provided to the City prior to a Certificate of Occupancy (CO).
13. There shall be no outside speakers or broadcasts, including music that is audible from outside the building or off the property.
14. A police officer shall be utilized for services in order to manage and direct traffic.
15. Tree save areas shall be as depicted on the plan prepared by Rhodes Engineering Services, Inc., dated 7/8/2020, except that there may be impacts to certain trees on the eastern side of the property related to stormwater improvements and a sanitary sewer connection. The applicant shall work with Staff to layout those facilities with the least impact to desirable trees in the eastern tree save area, as approved by Staff.
16. Developer shall make every effort to tie into the existing storm drainage system on Harris Court. Proof of correspondence shall be provided to the City explaining to the affected property owner the benefits of tying release points directly into pipe systems. If unsuccessful, developer shall provide a

stormwater outfall design that distributes stormwater into sheet flow discharge or makes every effort to conform to the existing condition flow patterns. Stormwater facilities shall not encroach upon the undisturbed buffer, except that a drainage easement may cross the buffer in order to tie into the system on Harris Court. Location of drainage easement shall minimize impacts to existing trees and shall be replanted where necessary, as approved by Staff. Outfalls, swales, and ditches shall be lined with river rock where visible to adjacent properties.

- The applicant, Pastor Randall Knighton, is requesting a conditional use to allow 'Church, Synagogue' on a 2.9-acre property zoned O-I (Office-Institutional). Spirit of God Christian Church proposes to construct a new church building with a capacity of 250 seats. In order to save trees, a variance has been advertised to allow off-site parking served by shuttle or valet service approximately 700' from the applicant's property. The subject property is located at 1200 Upper Hembree Road at the northeast corner of Upper Hembree Road and Harris Road.
- The submitted request, if approved, would allow a 'Church, Synagogue' for Spirit of God Christian Church. A conditional use is requested to allow the church use and a variance was advertised to allow off-site parking within approximately 700' of the property. The applicant proposes a 1-story, 22,200 square foot church building accommodating a congregation of up to 250 people. The subject property is located at 1200 Upper Hembree Road at the northeast corner of Upper Hembree Road and Harris Road.
- The 2.9-acre property is zoned O-I (Office-Institutional) and is currently developed with a single-family detached home. Surrounding properties are zoned R-10 (Dwelling, 'For-Sale', Residential) to the north, R-15 (Dwelling, 'For-Sale', Residential) to the west, PSC (Planned Shopping Center) to the south and O-P (Office-Professional) to the east. Creekside at Hembree Subdivision is located to the north, two (2) unplotted residential lots are located to the west, the former Harry's Market (Whole Foods) is located to the south, and Alpharetta Medical Center to the east.
- Spirit of God Christian Church formerly operated in Alpharetta at 1675 Hembree Road before moving temporarily to 1075 Holcomb Bridge Road, which is the Double Tree Hilton Hotel in Roswell. The church intends to provide one (1) service on Sundays at 10:00 AM and bible study on Thursdays at 7:00 PM. The building would also be used for the church's administrative offices.
- The applicant's initial site plan included the required parking on the subject property. However, due to the number of quality trees on the property, Staff encouraged the applicant to save additional trees. The applicant's revised site plan provides additional trees saves, which resulted in the removal of fifteen (15) required parking spaces. The applicant was able to secure an off-site parking agreement to utilize up to 55 additional parking spaces at 1265 Upper Hembree Road (Atlanta Center for Dermatologic Diseases), which does not conduct business on Sundays. The City's Unified Development Code (UDC) allows off-site parking within 500', of which the applicant's off-site parking is approximately 700' from the property. Shuttle or valet service is proposed to accommodate the off-site parking area.
- Staff prepared Table 1 below in order to compare the applicant's proposal to existing, similarly situated religious facilities in the City. The applicant's proposal appears to be consistent with City religious facilities located in residential areas as it relates to property size, occupancy, and parking.

| Table 1: Sample of Religious Facilities Located in Residential Areas |                                                      |        |                                                                                       |                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Religious Facility                                                   | Property Size                                        | Zoning | Building Square Footage                                                               | # of Parking Spaces                                      |
| Applicant's Proposal – Spirit of God Church/Upper Hembree Rd         | 2.9 acres                                            | O-I    | 250 seats<br>Building 12,035 SF + 10,176 SF unfinished basement = 22,211 SF           | 110 spaces (on-site) + 55 spaces (off-site) = 165 spaces |
| Islamic Center of North Fulton/Rucker Rd                             | 4.23 acres                                           | AG     | 240 seats<br>Building 7,900 SF                                                        | 120 spaces                                               |
| Sae Han Presbyterian Church/Kimball Bridge Rd                        | 9.96 acres (7.2 acres buildable)                     | SU     | 600 seats<br>Building 64,200 SF                                                       | 300 spaces + off-site parking w/shuttle service          |
| Church of God/Mid Broadwell Rd                                       | 3.52 acres                                           | SU     | 276 seats<br>Building 10,000 SF, 10,000 SF 2 <sup>nd</sup> story not currently built) | 63 spaces                                                |
| St. Thomas Aquinas/Rucker Rd                                         | 17 acres                                             | AG     | 750 seats<br>Building 49,609 SF                                                       | 620 spaces                                               |
| North Fulton Jewish Center/Kimball Bridge Rd                         | 1.87 acres                                           | R-12   | 250 seats<br>Building 26,500 SF                                                       | 61 spaces<br>112 spaces req'd, reduced for shared spaces |
| St. James United Methodist Webb Bridge Rd                            | 14.9 acres incl. stream buffers/ 3.6 acres developed | O-I    | 720 seats<br>Building 27,673 SF                                                       | 369 spaces                                               |

- The submitted site plan depicts a 1-story over basement church building with 110 parking spaces. The main level of the church is 12,035 square feet with a 10,176 square foot basement, for a total of 22,211 square feet at full built-out. 35 parking spaces are located at the front of the building with access from Upper Hembree Road and 75 spaces are located at the rear of the building with access from Harris Road. The primary assembly space of the church would accommodate a maximum of 250 seats.
- For a church, the Unified Development Code (UDC) requires one (1) parking space for every two (2) seats in the principal assembly room. Based on a maximum seating capacity of 250 people, a total of 125 parking spaces are required. The applicant has an off-site parking agreement at 1265 Upper Hembree Road for an additional 55 parking spaces. According to the applicant, off-site parking will be used for overflow parking and will be accommodated by shuttle or valet service.
- The required 10' landscape strips along Upper Hembree Road and Harris Road are depicted on the site plan. The landscape strip along Harris Road should include existing trees in order to maintain the tree canopy along Harris Road. Where possible, the landscape strip should be supplemented with evergreen material to screen the rear parking lot from Harris Road. The required 50' undisturbed buffer is depicted along the north end of the property and adjacent to the Creekside at Hembree subdivision.
- The property is heavily wooded, predominately hardwood forest with a canopy of Pines, Oaks, Hickory, Sweet Gum and Poplars, to name a few. The site plan depicts tree save areas on the north, east and west sides of the property, which include specimen trees, trees of quality and smaller tree groupings. The tree save area on the east side of the property will likely be impacted due to it being the low spot for stormwater, as well as a potential sanitary sewer connection. However, this tree save area includes several Poplars, which tend to be hazardous due to branch failures. If approved, it is recommended that the applicant work with Staff to layout stormwater facilities and sanitary sewer to have the least impact to desirable trees in the tree save area.

- Previous site plans submitted by the applicant depicted a level spreader in the northeast corner of the property and within the 50' undisturbed buffer. Stormwater facilities are not permitted within an undisturbed buffer and a level spreader is not the preferred method of handling stormwater. If approved, the City's Stormwater Engineer recommends that the development make every effort to tie into the existing storm drainage system on Harris Court.
- City Staff prepared trip generation information for the proposed 250-seat church, which estimates that the use would generate 81 trips during the Sunday peak hour.
- City staff has reviewed the applicant's request and compared it to the conditional use standards established in UDC Section 4.2.3 (B) which are as follows:
- A conditional use otherwise permitted within a zoning district shall be considered to be compatible with other uses permitted in the district, provided that due consideration is given to the following objective criteria at a public hearing and satisfactory provisions or arrangements are made for.
  1. Access into and out of the property with regard to traffic and pedestrian safety, volume of traffic flow, and emergency vehicles, as well as the type of street providing access.

Response: The proposed church is located on the corner of Upper Hembree Road and Harris Road with a curb cut on each road. The proposed use will not have a significant impact on vehicular and pedestrian access or on traffic flow. If approved, the developer of the church should construct minimum six-foot (6') sidewalks along Upper Hembree Road and Harris Road.

2. The extent to which refuse areas, loading and service areas, off street parking, and buffers and screening are provided on the property.

Response: The site plan adequately addresses the above-mentioned improvements, except that parking is proposed to be met on-site (110 spaces) and off-site (55 spaces). The applicant has an off-site parking agreement at 1265 Upper Hembree Road, which would be supplemented with shuttle or valet service.

3. Ensuring that the conditional use will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of the environment or of other property in the immediate vicinity or diminish and impair property values within the surrounding neighborhood.

Response: The conditional use should not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other properties in the immediate vicinity. All development regulations have been met, except that 15 required parking spaces would be met off-site per parking agreement at 1265 Upper Hembree Road. The off-site parking agreement would provide access to an additional 40 parking spaces above the UDC parking requirement for a church.

4. Ensuring that the conditional use will not increase local or state expenditures in relation to the cost of servicing or maintaining neighboring properties.

Response: Not applicable.

5. Ensuring that the conditional use will not impede the normal and orderly development of surrounding property for uses predominant in the area; and

Response: The proposed church is compatible with the residential character of the area and should not impede the development of surrounding properties.

6. Ensuring that the location and character of the conditional use is considered to be consistent with a desirable pattern of development for the city, in general.

Response: The proposed church is compatible with the residential character of the area. The capacity of the church, size of the property and parking are consistent with other churches in the City that are similarly situated in residential areas.

- The City of Alpharetta Unified Development Code Article IV, Section 4.5.3 outlines the criteria set forth for granting a variance. The ordinance specifically states..."a variance may be granted upon a finding that":

- (1) There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property in question because of its size, shape, or topography; or

Response: Development of the subject property is limited due to topography and tree coverage. The applicant's initial site plan provided the required on-site parking. However, Staff encouraged the applicant to revise the plan in order to accommodate more tree saves. The off-site parking is located at 1265 Upper Hembree Road, which is approximately 700' from the subject property. The City's Unified Development Code (UDC) allows off-site parking within 500'.

- (2) The application of the Ordinance to this particular piece of property would create an unnecessary hardship; or

Response: The applicant could meet the required parking on the subject property, as evidenced by the initial site plan. However, Staff believes the existing tree canopy should be protected. The applicant proposes that the parking shortfall of 15 parking spaces be addressed with an off-site parking agreement at 1265 Upper Hembree Road, which is approximately 700' from the property and provides access to 55 parking spaces with shuttle or valet service.

- (3) There are conditions that are peculiar to the property which adversely affect its reasonable use or usability as currently zoned; or

Response: Development of the subject property is limited due to topography and tree coverage. The UDC allows off-site parking within 500'; whereas the applicant proposes to make up the balance of 15 parking spaces with an off-site parking agreement at 1265 Upper Hembree Road and located within 700' of the property.

- (4) Relief, if granted, would not cause substantial detriment to the public good or impair the purpose and intent of the City of Alpharetta ordinances.

Response: Approval of the variance should not cause substantial detriment to the public good, if conditions are approved requiring an off-site parking agreement for the additional parking spaces, as well as shuttle or valet service. The applicant could meet the required parking on-site. However, Staff believes the existing tree canopy should be protected.

- City Staff has reviewed the applicant's proposal and finds that the conditional use and variance do not conflict with the established criteria. The proposed church would have little impact during peak hours for traffic and the proposed size of the church in relation to the size of the property and parking are consistent with religious facilities in the City that are similarly situated in residential areas. The variance to allow off-site parking within 700' of the property is related to protecting the existing tree canopy. If approved, conditions are recommended limiting the capacity of the church to no more than 250 seats, requiring an off-site parking

agreement and tree saves.

- The report submitted by the applicant states that letters were mailed to each property owner within 500' of the subject property stating the applicant's intent. The report states that no comments were received.
- The CZIM was held on July 8, 2020. There were a few questions and comments from the public regarding the undisturbed buffer, tree removal and church operations.
- The applicant, Pastor Randall Knighton, 1200 Upper Hembree Road, Alpharetta, GA, came forward to speak on behalf of the item.

#### Public Comment

- No Public Comment

❖ Council Member Richard offered a motion to approve CU-20-03/V-20-10 Spirit of God Christian Church/1200 Upper Hembree Road, subject to the following conditions:

1. 'Church, Synagogue' shall be a permitted use at 1200 Upper Hembree Road and shall be limited to Spirit of God Christian Church. The sanctuary, or assembly area, shall be limited to no more than 250 seats. Church-related services shall be limited to Sunday worship service, weekday Bible Study, administrative office, and occasional church-related services such as, weddings, baptisms, funerals, or similar services. Residential use of the building is prohibited. Occasional overnight stays in accordance with religious practices is permitted.
2. Property shall be developed substantially similar to plans by Rhodes Engineering Services, Inc., dated 7/8/2020, except for modifications required to comply with the conditions below.
3. Developer shall install minimum 6' planting strip with street trees, 6' sidewalk and curb and gutter along the property frontage on Upper Hembree Road and Harris Road. In addition, pedestrian lighting shall be provided at approximately 120' on center, as approved by Staff.
4. Building shall be limited to no more than 1 story, with mezzanine, over a basement and no more than 22,211 SF.
5. Building shall be primarily brick or stone on 3 sides with a gable roof and compatible with the residential character of the area, as approved by DRB.
6. Church building shall connect to the public sidewalk.
7. Corner of Harris Rd and Upper Hembree Rd shall have heavy decorative landscaping, as approved by DRB.
8. Required landscape strips shall be exclusive of overhead utilities and easements.
9. Dumpster enclosure shall be masonry to match the church with a metal opaque gate, as approved by DRB.
10. Retaining walls visible from the street shall be decorative, as approved by DRB. Retaining walls shall maintain a min. 5' setback from the undisturbed buffer and shall not impact trees within the buffer. Retaining walls visible from

off-site shall exceed 6' in height.

- ~~11. On-site parking shall be limited to the two (2) parking areas depicted on the site plan prepared by Rhodes Engineering Services, Inc., dated 7/8/2020. All required parking shall be provided onsite and applicant shall work with Staff to connect the two parking areas onsite. Rear parking area shall be screened from Harris Road including supplementing with evergreens, if existing vegetation does not provide a screen, as approved by DRB. Applicant will work with staff to consider the location and configuration of a connection between the 2 parking lots, if feasible.~~
  - ~~12. Off site parking agreement and shuttle/valet service shall be maintained with the operation of the church. A copy of the off-site parking agreement shall be provided to the City prior to a Certificate of Occupancy (CO).~~
  13. There shall be no outside speakers or broadcasts, including music that is audible from outside the building or off the property.
  14. A police officer shall be utilized for services in order to manage and direct traffic.
  15. Tree save areas shall be as depicted on the plan prepared by Rhodes Engineering Services, Inc., dated 7/8/2020, except that there may be impacts to certain trees on the eastern side of the property related to stormwater improvements and a sanitary sewer connection. The applicant shall work with Staff to layout those facilities with the least impact to desirable trees in the eastern tree save area, as approved by Staff.
  16. Developer shall make every effort to tie into the existing storm drainage system on Harris Court. Proof of correspondence shall be provided to the City explaining to the affected property owner the benefits of tying release points directly into pipe systems. If unsuccessful, developer shall provide a stormwater outfall design that distributes stormwater into sheet flow discharge or makes every effort to conform to the existing condition flow patterns. Stormwater facilities shall not encroach upon the undisturbed buffer, except that a drainage easement may cross the buffer in order to tie into the system on Harris Court. Location of drainage easement shall minimize impacts to existing trees and shall be replanted where necessary, as approved by Staff. Outfalls, swales, and ditches shall be lined with river rock where visible to adjacent properties.
- ❖ Council Member Burnett offered a substitute motion to approve CU-20-03/V-20-10 Spirit of God Christian Church/1200 Upper Hembree Road subject to the changes approved by the Planning Commission (as presented by Staff)
    - The motion received a second from Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell
    - The motion failed (5-2); Mayor Gilvin, Council Member Hipes, Council Member Binder, Council Member Merkel, and Council Member Richard voting in opposition
  - ❖ Council Member Richard offered a motion to approve CU-20-03/V-20-10 Spirit of God Christian Church/1200 Upper Hembree Road, subject to the following conditions:
    1. 'Church, Synagogue' shall be a permitted use at 1200 Upper Hembree Road and shall be limited to Spirit of God Christian Church. The sanctuary, or assembly area, shall be limited to no more than 250 seats. Church-related services shall be limited to Sunday worship service, weekday Bible Study,

administrative office, and occasional church-related services such as, weddings, baptisms, funerals, or similar services. Residential use of the building is prohibited. Occasional overnight stays in accordance with religious practices is permitted.

2. Property shall be developed substantially similar to plans by Rhodes Engineering Services, Inc., dated 7/8/2020, except for modifications required to comply with the conditions below.
3. Developer shall install minimum 6' planting strip with street trees, 6' sidewalk and curb and gutter along the property frontage on Upper Hembree Road and Harris Road. In addition, pedestrian lighting shall be provided at approximately 120' on center, as approved by Staff.
4. Building shall be limited to no more than 1 story, with mezzanine, over a basement and no more than 22,211 SF.
5. Building shall be primarily brick or stone on 3 sides with a gable roof and compatible with the residential character of the area, as approved by DRB.
6. Church building shall connect to the public sidewalk.
7. Corner of Harris Rd and Upper Hembree Rd shall have heavy decorative landscaping, as approved by DRB.
8. Required landscape strips shall be exclusive of overhead utilities and easements.
9. Dumpster enclosure shall be masonry to match the church with a metal opaque gate, as approved by DRB.
10. Retaining walls visible from the street shall be decorative, as approved by DRB. Retaining walls shall maintain a min. 5' setback from the undisturbed buffer and shall not impact trees within the buffer. Retaining walls visible from off-site shall exceed 6' in height.
11. ~~On-site parking shall be limited to the two (2) parking areas depicted on the site plan prepared by Rhodes Engineering Services, Inc., dated 7/8/2020. All required parking shall be provided onsite and applicant shall work with Staff to connect the two parking areas onsite. Rear parking area shall be screened from Harris Road including supplementing with evergreens, if existing vegetation does not provide a screen, as approved by DRB. Applicant will work with staff to consider the location and configuration of a connection between the 2 parking lots, if feasible.~~
12. ~~Off-site parking agreement and shuttle/valet service shall be maintained with the operation of the church. A copy of the off-site parking agreement shall be provided to the City prior to a Certificate of Occupancy (CO).~~
13. There shall be no outside speakers or broadcasts, including music that is audible from outside the building or off the property.
14. A police officer shall be utilized for services in order to manage and direct traffic.
15. Tree save areas shall be as depicted on the plan prepared by Rhodes Engineering Services, Inc., dated 7/8/2020, except that there may be impacts to certain trees on the eastern side of the property related to stormwater improvements and a sanitary sewer connection. The applicant shall work

with Staff to layout those facilities with the least impact to desirable trees in the eastern tree save area, as approved by Staff.

16. Developer shall make every effort to tie into the existing storm drainage system on Harris Court. Proof of correspondence shall be provided to the City explaining to the affected property owner the benefits of tying release points directly into pipe systems. If unsuccessful, developer shall provide a stormwater outfall design that distributes stormwater into sheet flow discharge or makes every effort to conform to the existing condition flow patterns. Stormwater facilities shall not encroach upon the undisturbed buffer, except that a drainage easement may cross the buffer in order to tie into the system on Harris Court. Location of drainage easement shall minimize impacts to existing trees and shall be replanted where necessary, as approved by Staff. Outfalls, swales, and ditches shall be lined with river rock where visible to adjacent properties.

- The motion received a second from Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell
- The motion was passed unanimously (7-0)

**D. PH-20-05 Unified Development Code Text Amendments – Alpharetta Downtown Code, Murals, Special Event Facility, Temporary Uses and Fences**

- Director of Community Development, Kathi Cook, came forward to present this item.
- This item was heard at the 8/6/2020 Planning Commission meeting. There were no public comments. After discussion, Planning Commission recommended approval with changes to remove chain link fence with the Director's approval and replace 'certain heavily traveled' with 'collector or arterial'. Vote 5-0
- Staff is recommending that Mayor and Council approve text amendments to the Unified Development Code related to the Downtown Code, Murals, Special Event Facility, Temporary Use and Fences.
- Consideration of text amendments to Unified Development Code (UDC) Subsection 1.4 Definitions, to add definitions for 'Mural', 'Privacy Fence' and 'Special Event Facility'. Text amendments to add 'Special Event Facility' as a permitted and conditional use in certain zoning districts. Text amendments to add a temporary use for non-profit seasonal events and regulations related to the location and appearance of fences and walls. Text amendments to the Alpharetta Downtown Code related to land use categories and the use table.
- Asst. City Attorney, Steven Jones, read the ordinance aloud.

**Public Comment:**

- No Public Comment

- ❖ Council Member Richard offered a motion to approve PH-20-05 Unified Development Code Text Amendments – Alpharetta Downtown Code, Murals, Special Event Facility, Temporary Uses and Fences

- The motion received a second from Council Member Merkel
- The motion was approved unanimously (7-0)

**E. PH-20-11 Unified Development Code Text Amendments – Conditional Use Permit Criteria and Discount Store definition**

- Director of Community Development, Kathi Cook, came forward to present this item.
- This item was heard at the 8/6/2020 Planning Commission meeting. There were no public comments. After discussion, Planning Commission recommended approval. Vote 5-0
- Staff is recommending Mayor and Council approve text amendments to the Unified Development Code related to Conditional Use Permit review criteria and definition of Discount Store.
- Consideration of text amendments to Unified Development Code (UDC) Section 1.4 Definitions, to amend the definition for 'Discount Store' and Subsections 2.2(a) and 4.2.3(B) to add review criteria related to a request for a Conditional Use Permit.
- The following sentence was added to the definition of 'Discount Store' for clarification purposes:
  - o Discount Store. A retail store that sells new or used goods or products at prices lower than traditional retail outlets. Discount stores principally engage in offering a category of similar goods or a wide assortment of goods for sale to the general public. This includes, but is not limited to, swap shops, flea markets, antique malls, donation centers, surplus stores, and thrift stores.
- It is recommended that the following criteria be added to the conditional use permit criteria:
  - 7. Ensuring that the conditional use is appropriately separated from similar uses and conflicting uses, such as residences, government buildings, parks, churches, or schools.
- Asst. City Attorney, Steven Jones, read the ordinance aloud.

**Public Comment:**

- No Public Comment

- ❖ Council Member Richard offered a motion to approve PH-20-11 Unified Development Code Text Amendments – Conditional Use Permit Criteria and Discount Store definition
  - The motion received a second from Council Member Merkel
  - The motion was approved (6-1); Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell voting in opposition

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Consideration of An Emergency Ordinance: Requiring the Use of Masks in Certain Public Places During Said Pandemic; Allowing Entities to Opt-Out of Said Mask Requirement; and for Other Purposes

- Asst. City Attorney, Steven Jones, came forward to present this item.
- The recommendation is for Mayor and Council to adopt an Emergency Ordinance requiring the use of masks in certain public places during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing entities to opt-out of the mask requirement and for other purposes.
- On August 15, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Brian P. Kemp signed an Executive Order to allow local governments to issue mask mandates. The executive order allows the mask mandate to be enforced on government-owned property as well as private property with the consent of the owner.
- The majority consensus among medical professionals based on empirical evidence is that face masks and face coverings reduce the shedding of infected respiratory droplets into the environment and, therefore, reduce the transmission of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the “CDC”) of the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States of America (“HHS”) has published guidelines that recommend that all persons wear face masks or face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures may be difficult to maintain.
- This emergency ordinance will declare that every person within the municipal limits of the City shall wear a mask covering their mouth and nose at all times while in a public place where social distancing cannot or may be difficult to maintain. Exceptions to this are listed within the ordinance.
- The final version of the Emergency Ordinance will be presented at the Monday, August 24, 2020 City Council Meeting and shall become effective immediately upon adoption.
- Director of Public Safety, John Robison, came forward to discuss the enforcement of the ordinance.
- Asst. City Attorney, Steven Jones, read the ordinance aloud.

#### Public Comment:

- Sarah Janjirala, 405 Ridge Court, Alpharetta, GA, came forward in opposition of this item.

- Praveen Janjirala, 405 Ridge Court, Alpharetta, GA, came forward in opposition of this item.
- Julie Stevenson, 1364 Dalesford Drive, Alpharetta, GA, came forward in opposition of this item.
- Gariel Burchett, 2441 Loxford Lane, Alpharetta, GA, came forward in opposition of this item.
- Public comments received via email are attached.

❖ Council Member Binder offered a motion to table indefinitely the Consideration of an Emergency Ordinance requiring the use of masks in certain public places during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing entities to opt-out of the mask requirement and for other purposes

- The motion received a second from Council Member Richard
- The motion failed (5-2); Mayor Gilvin, Council Member Merkel, Council Member Burnett, Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell and Council Member Hipes voting in opposition

❖ Council Member Merkel offered a motion to deny the Consideration of an Emergency Ordinance requiring the use of masks in certain public places during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing entities to opt-out of the mask requirement and for other purposes

- The motion received a second from Council Member Burnett
- The motion to deny passed (4-3); Council Member Richard, Council Member Binder and Council Member Hipes voting in opposition

**B. Consideration of an Ordinance to Add Certain Provisions Governing Enforcement of Violations of Chapter 20 of the City Code; To Provide Regulations Governing Record Retention and Compliance Filings of Fire, Life Safety, and Related Records (1st Reading)**

- Director of Public Safety, John Robison and Fire Marshall, Phillip Seabolt, came forward to present this item.
- Staff is recommending that Mayor and Council adopt an ordinance to add certain provisions governing enforcement of violations of Chapter 20 of the City Code; to provide regulations governing record retention and compliance filings of fire, life safety, and related records and third-party software and for other purposes.
- On August 26, 2019, Mayor and Council adopted Ordinance 783. This ordinance pertains to the maintenance and reporting of records for Fire and Life Safety Systems in Chapter 20 of the Code of the City of Alpharetta. Staff is requesting to amend this ordinance by adding the following section regarding Enforcement Powers. Sec. 20-11. - Enforcement powers.
- Sec. 20-11. - Enforcement powers. The director of public safety, or his designees or officers, are authorized to enforce the provisions of the fire prevention code and this chapter. This authority shall include the power to arrest by the issuance of a citation and impose penalties in accordance with Section 1-8 of the Code of The City. With respect to this Chapter 20, the director of public safety may, but in no

way is required to, promulgate, and from time to time amend, a list of applicable fees and penalties.

- The goal of this ordinance amendment is to reduce man hours and increase compliance with fire and life safety infractions. It is not to be a revenue generator but a compliance generator. We only anticipate a small amount of fines being issued. Staff would still provide non-compliant locations a 7, 14, or 30-day window to correct the violation before a fine would be issued.
- The passing of this amendment would reduce man hours spent attempting to get violators to become compliant. This would increase productivity and efficiency and potentially reduce overtime of the Fire Marshal staff.
- Asst. City Attorney, Steven Jones, read the ordinance aloud.

**Public Comment:**

- No Public Comment
- ❖ Council Member Hipes offered a motion to approve an ordinance to add certain provisions governing enforcement of violations of Chapter 20 of the City Code; to provide regulations governing record retention and compliance filings of fire, life safety, and related records and third-party software and for other purposes.
  - The motion received a second from Council Member Binder
  - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0)

**C. Tradewinds Parkway Extension Traffic Impact Study**

- Director of Public Works, Pete Sewczwicz, came forward to present this item.
- Staff is recommending that Mayor and Council award the project for Tradewinds Parkway traffic impact study to Moffatt & Nichol in the amount of \$75,480.00 and authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents.
- The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) plans to add new, optional express lanes from the North Springs Marta Station to McFarland Parkway to improve traffic mobility within the GA 400 corridor. One of the proposed Express Lanes access points would be north of Webb Bridge Road at a new extension of Tradewinds Parkway. Tradewinds Parkway would be extended across GA 400 and connects to Westside Parkway. In order to evaluate impacts of this access point on traffic mobility at neighboring intersections and corridors, a traffic study is necessary for intersection and corridor Level of Service (LOS) analysis to examine the existing and projecting future conditions. The study will provide recommendations to mitigate the traffic impacts. The study area is Windward Parkway to the north, Webb Bridge Road to the south, North Point Parkway to the east, and Westside Parkway to the west.

- The Department of Public Works contacted multiple engineering consulting firms to submit proposals and pricing. A total of six proposals were received as follows:

| <u>Bidder</u>    | <u>Total</u> |
|------------------|--------------|
| KCI Technologies | \$42,500.00  |
| LOWE Engineers   | \$60,060.00  |
| Moffatt & Nichol | \$75,480.00  |
| POND & Company   | \$77,000.00  |
| ARCADIS          | \$80,800.00  |
| Kimley-Horn      | \$87,250.00  |

- With each consulting firm employing different approaches to address the project's scope, the average total costs from six firms is \$70,515.00 with the lowest firm's price being significantly below the average (i.e., more than one standard deviation less than the average- which is statistically considered as an outlier). After a detailed review of all proposals, it is evident that methodologies and roadway network modeling techniques proposed by KCI Technologies and LOWE Engineers are not on the same level as Moffatt & Nichol.
- Moffatt & Nichol is a consulting firm with years of experience in transportation planning, traffic engineering, and roadway & interchange design projects. Additionally, tasks and extent of the work described in Moffatt & Nichol's proposal are more comprehensive compared to other five bidders. The major difference between the Moffatt & Nichol's and the other five proposals is modeling approaches; Moffatt & Nichol utilizes multiple software packages for simulation and modeling of the study area to capture traffic impacts. Some of the recent projects by Moffatt & Nichol that are with similar scopes to Tradewinds Parkway project are State Route 81 Corridor Study, and Brampton Road Connector from State Route 21 / State Route 25 to State Route 21 Spur, both for the GDOT.
- Staff met with representatives of Moffatt & Nichol on March 13, 2020 and reviewed the project's scope and the City's expectations, with a follow up verification on August 13, 2020. Considering the importance of the current project and providing opportunities for qualified consulting firms to evaluate the City's transportation network, it is recommended to award the project to Moffatt & Nichol to perform the necessary traffic studies associated with the current project.
- Once the project has been awarded to Moffatt & Nichol, the study will begin immediately. A preliminary report of the study results will be available in three months after the NTP, and the final report will be complete two months after reviewing the preliminary report and providing comments to Moffatt & Nichol. In addition to utilizing new traffic counts, the study will be based on the latest approved Traffic Flow Diagrams available for the GA 400 Express Lanes projected for years 2026 and 2046, received from the GDOT. Due to the existing COVID-19 pandemic, historical data, and project growth of the area pre-Covid will be one of the components in preparing the study.

#### **Public Comment:**

- No Public Comment
- ❖ Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell offered a motion to award the project for Tradewinds Parkway traffic impact study to Moffatt & Nichol in an amount not to exceed \$75,480.00 and authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents
  - The motion received a second from Council Member Binder
  - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0)

**D. ItsMyTown Alpharetta Mobile App (Sponsored By: Mayor Gilvin and Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell)**

- This item has been removed from the agenda and will be neither heard nor considered during this meeting.

**E. Confirmation of Council's Approval from Executive Session: Joint Representation and Cost Sharing Agreement**

- City Administrator, Bob Regus, came forward to present this item.
- The recommendation is for Mayor and Council to confirm approval of the Joint Representation and Cost Sharing Agreement.
- During the August 10, 2020 Executive Session Meeting, Mayor and Council unanimously voted to authorize the Mayor to execute the attached Joint Representation and Cost Sharing Agreement.
- The IGA states that the City will agree to share certain legal fees and costs associated with the representation of the Cities in any and all actions including Court filings against Fulton County regarding CARES Act funding.

**Public Comment:**

- No Public Comment
- ❖ Council Member Merkel offered a motion to confirm Council's approval from the Executive Session regarding the Joint Representation and Cost Sharing Agreement
  - The motion received a second from Council Member Hipes
  - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0)

**VIII. WORKSHOP**

**A. Redevelopment Plans for Union Hill Park**

- Director of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services came forward to present this item.
- The purpose of this item is to open discussion on Union Hill Park and how to activate the Park short-term and long-term.
- At the January 2020 Mayor and City Council retreat, staff was asked to bring a workshop item to Council to discuss redevelopment plans for Union Hill Park to include interim and long-range strategies for activating the Park.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No Public Comment

## **X. REPORTS**

- Mayor Gilvin commented on attending the ribbon cutting ceremony of Crumbl Cookies located on Old Milton Pkwy.
- City Administrator, Bob Regus, came forward to present Mayor and Council with a brief update on City business.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- ❖ Council Member Burnett offered a motion to adjourn into Executive Session
  - The motion received a second from Council Member Merkel
  - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0)
- ❖ With no further business to discuss or items to be heard, Mayor Gilvin adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 9:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin Cobb".

Erin Cobb, City Clerk

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** "Yes" to Mask Mandate  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:58:53 AM

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Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Please vote "Yes" to mandate the wearing of masks in Alpharetta. As an Alpharetta resident, I agree with this mandate to keep us safe.

Thank you for all the difficult decisions and hard work you are doing to keep our city safe.

Diana Zorich

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gilvin, Jim](#); [Mitchell, Donald](#); [Burnett, Ben](#); [Merkel, Dan](#); [Binder, Jason](#)  
**Subject:** "YES" to the Mask Mandate!  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:36:03 PM

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I urge you all to vote "yes" in passing a mask mandate for Alpharetta.

Thank you for making the necessary decisions that will keep us all safe.

And thank you for your service to the city of Alpharetta and its residents.

Regards,

Bruce Zorich

1185 Lake Shore Overlook  
Alpharetta, GA 30005

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gilvin, Jim](#)  
**Subject:** "Yes" to the Mask Mandate  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:04:01 AM

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Mayor,

I support you in voting "yes" to the mask mandate for Alpharetta. I am a resident of Alpharetta and I thank you for all the difficult decisions and hard work you and the city Council are doing to keep Alpharetta safe.

Diana Zorich

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Cobb, Erin](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Comments for tonight's Council Meeting about EMERGENCY MASK ORDINANCE  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:19:50 PM

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To whom it may concern: I'd like to request that this message be handed out to City Council and added to the record of tonight's meeting.

In regards to the EMERGENCY MASK ORDINANCE - 08.24.2020(3837955.6), I would implore you to consider the following. In this ordinance it states:

"WHEREAS, the majority consensus among medical professionals based on empirical evidence is that face masks and face coverings reduce the shedding of infected respiratory droplets into the environment and, therefore, reduce the transmission of COVID-19;"

Since the ordinance does not provide the empirical evidence referenced in this statement, I cannot speak to this evidence. I can, however, provide much evidence to the contrary that, in fact, states that mask wearing is ineffective and even harmful. Below are links to 14 scientific papers from reputable and highly regarded scientific organizations and publications, including the National Library of Medicine (PubMed) and Europe PMC (Europe PubMed Central). These papers clearly show that wearing masks in a surgery setting is ineffective. Why would we wear masks outdoors in open air and open space if they are ineffective in a close range surgery setting??

**Mandating masks has not kept death rates down anywhere.** The 20 U.S. states that have never ordered people to wear face masks indoors and out have dramatically lower COVID-19 death rates than the 30 states that have mandated masks. Most of the no-mask states have COVID-19 death rates below 20 per 100,000 population, and none have a death rate higher than 55. All 13 states that have death rates higher 55 are states that have required the wearing of masks in all public places. It has not protected them.

In addition, the current Fulton County Board of Health Epidemiology reports provided on the Alpharetta Government's website clearly indicate that cases have continually and dramatically decreased over the past month (41%) all while there was no public mask mandate. AND, the 80.2% of total COVID deaths are people aged 70 and higher with 44.1% of those in Long-Term Care Facilities. Further, the majority of new cases are aged under 40 years old. This implies that most people who test positive are not dying, those that are dying are elderly, and the case count is decreasing dramatically. How does this justify a mask mandate in any way, shape, or form?

"We are living in an atmosphere of meaningless separation," writes Benjamin Cherry in the Summer 2020 issue of New View magazine. A separation that is destroying lives, livelihoods, and souls.

1. [Ritter et al.](#), in 1975, found that **"the wearing of a surgical face mask had no effect upon the overall operating room environmental contamination."**
2. [Ha'eri and Wiley](#), in 1980, applied human albumin microspheres to the interior of surgical masks

in 20 operations. At the end of each operation, wound washings were examined under the microscope. **"Particle contamination of the wound was demonstrated in all experiments."**

3. [Laslett and Sabin](#), in 1989, found that caps and masks were not necessary during cardiac catheterization. **"No infections were found in any patient, regardless of whether a cap or mask was used,"** they wrote. [Sjøl and Kelbaek](#) came to the same conclusion in 2002.
4. In [Tunevall's 1991 study](#), a general surgical team wore no masks in half of their surgeries for two years. After 1,537 operations performed with masks, the wound infection rate was 4.7%, while after 1,551 operations performed without masks, the wound infection rate was only 3.5%.
5. [A review by Skinner and Sutton](#) in 2001 concluded that **"The evidence for discontinuing the use of surgical face masks would appear to be stronger than the evidence available to support their continued use."**
6. [Lahme et al.](#), in 2001, wrote that **"surgical face masks worn by patients during regional anaesthesia, did not reduce the concentration of airborne bacteria over the operation field in our study. Thus they are dispensable."**
7. [Figueiredo et al.](#), in 2001, reported that in five years of doing peritoneal dialysis without masks, rates of peritonitis in their unit were no different than rates in hospitals where masks were worn.
8. [Bahli](#) did a systematic literature review in 2009 and found that **"no significant difference in the incidence of postoperative wound infection was observed between masks groups and groups operated with no masks."**
9. [Surgeons at the Karolinska Institute](#) in Sweden, recognizing the lack of evidence supporting the use of masks, ceased requiring them in 2010 for anesthesiologists and other non-scrubbed personnel in the operating room. **"Our decision to no longer require routine surgical masks for personnel not scrubbed for surgery is a departure from common practice. But the evidence to support this practice does not exist,"** wrote Dr. Eva Sellden.
10. [Webster et al.](#), in 2010, reported on obstetric, gynecological, general, orthopaedic, breast and urological surgeries performed on 827 patients. All non-scrubbed staff wore masks in half the surgeries, and none of the non-scrubbed staff wore masks in half the surgeries. Surgical site infections occurred in 11.5% of the Mask group, and in only 9.0% of the No Mask group.
11. [Lipp and Edwards](#) reviewed the surgical literature in 2014 and found **"no statistically significant difference in infection rates between the masked and unmasked group in any of the trials."** [Vincent and Edwards](#) updated this review in 2016 and the conclusion was the same.
12. [Carøe](#), in a 2014 review based on four studies and 6,006 patients, wrote that **"none of the four studies found a difference in the number of post-operative infections whether you used a surgical mask or not."**
13. [Salassa and Swiontkowski](#), in 2014, investigated the necessity of scrubs, masks and head coverings in the operating room and concluded that **"there is no evidence that these measures reduce the prevalence of surgical site infection."**
14. [Da Zhou et al.](#), reviewing the literature in 2015, concluded that **"there is a lack of substantial evidence to support claims that facemasks protect either patient or surgeon from infectious contamination."**

Schools in China are now prohibiting students from wearing masks while exercising. Why? Because it was killing them. It was depriving them of oxygen and it was killing them. At least

three children died during Physical Education classes -- two of them while running on their school's track while wearing a mask. And a 26-year-old man suffered a collapsed lung after running two and a half miles while wearing a mask.

Seriously,  
Jeanine Pipitone  
Concerned Citizen

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Face Mask Ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:41:55 AM

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I see that you have on your agenda tonight a "Face Mask Ordinance". I want you to know that I am completely against the City of Alpharetta adopting such a measure as the threat of COVID-19 is not at a level warranting that kind of drastic action. Our local businesses have already suffered enough loss of business from the pandemic and this kind of ordinance may very well cause several to close forever.

Please do not cave to the political winds wanting you to take this action. I regularly follow the CDC data updates and Northern Fulton County is NOT AT RISK. Please, please do not take Alpharetta down this path and possibly destroy our community any further than it already has.

Sincerely,  
Roger A. Faulkner  
1005 Creek Ridge Pointe  
Alpharetta, GA 30005  
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mitigation  
**Date:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 7:56:09 PM

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**From:** Dunkerly Peggy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 6:01 PM  
**To:** jgilvin@alpharetta.ga.us  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Mitigation

Dear Honorary Mayor Gilvin,

As a 31 year citizen of Alpharetta. I am extremely concerned with the lack of masks by our citizens of Alpharetta. My husband and I drove through Avalon and downtown Alpharetta on a weekend night. We were appalled with the lack of mask wearing, as people closely gathered or were walking. We all know the science behind wearing the masks and it is beyond me why we are not taking concern for our fellow citizens seriously.

Our citizens have been directed that it is highly recommended to wear mask and social distance, but it is obvious that a high number citizens are ignoring the health precautions and the protection of themselves and most importantly others. Sadly, these people will only act on mandates.

Therefore, for the good and health of our citizens, I beg you to implement a mask mandate in Alpharetta.

I would hate to see the obituary column become longer, or the long-term health issues become greater.

Sincerely,

Peggy Dunkerly



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Governors Kemp's mask mandate option  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:22:06 AM

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Nancy and I strongly urge you to support the Governor's option to require wearing masks in both public and private areas.

We are at a critical juncture in mitigating the spread of this disease and Georgia in general and Alpharetta specifically has an obligation to take a leadership position.

Wearing a mask does not put anyone out of business while giving increased protection to many.

As a practical matter giving businesses an option will be seen as a weak response and encourage non compliance.

You have a chance and an obligation to save as many lives as you can so we hope you will rise to the occasion and do the right thing.

Nancy and David Bristol

an option just encourages reckless behavior and does not send a message  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** I'm for the Mask Mandate  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:11:35 AM

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Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Please vote to mandate mask wearing in Alpharetta. As a resident of Alpharetta, I am absolutely for the mandate to wear a mask.

Thank you for all the hard work and difficult decisions you need to make in order to keep Alpharetta citizens safe.

Diana Zorich

Dr. Mayor Gilvin and City Council Members,

It is come to my attention that the council plans to vote on a mask mandate for the City of Alpharetta on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Specifically, that “every person within the municipal limits of the City shall wear a mask covering their mouth and nose at all times while in a public place where social distancing cannot or may be difficult to maintain.”

As a resident of the City, I would like to provide some scientific evidence for you to consider before you vote.

I am not an epidemiologist. But, I am someone who has done significant research into this and other pandemics, immunology, and I have read both the state of Georgia and Fulton County epidemiology reports.

SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) is termed a novel or new coronavirus. That is not entirely accurate. Although scientists believe this is a virus that has never infected humans before, there have been other coronaviruses that have infected humans. These include MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV and 4 other, lesser known coronaviruses. Also, some common cold viruses are of the coronavirus family.

This is important for two reasons. One, since we have developed vaccines for coronaviruses that infect farm animals, the likelihood that eventually a human vaccine will be developed for SARS-CoV-2 is likely. But it is unlikely a vaccine will be ready by the end of the year. Two, there is some level of immunity to this Coronavirus in humans due to past exposure to other Coronavirus. Meaning that at the start of the pandemic, there were people who were already immune from SARS-CoV-2.

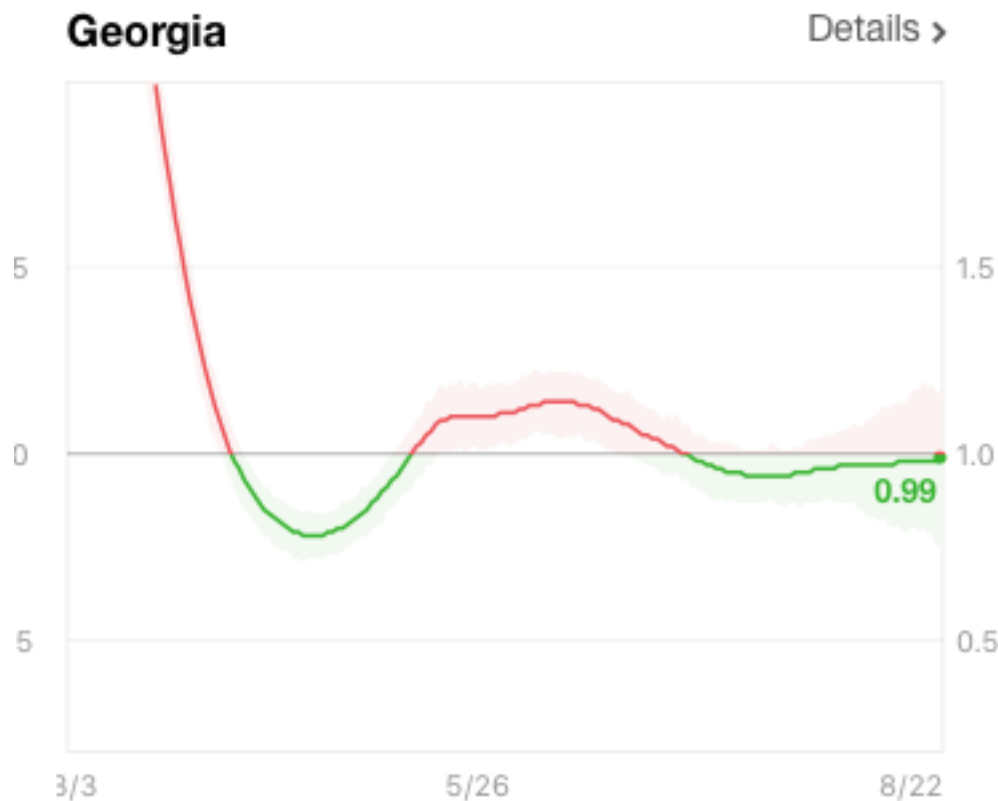
Another important concept to consider is the basic reproduction rate of a virus (known as  $R_0$ ).  $R_0$  is the number of other people, on average, an infected person will subsequently infect. If the  $R_0$  is greater than 1 the virus is spreading. The higher the number the faster the spread.

However, if  $R_0$  is less than 1, the virus will spread slowly and will eventually die out. For example, Measles with an  $R_0$  of 15 is highly infectious and spreads very quickly. MERS-CoV, another coronavirus, has an  $R_0$  of less than 1. Because of the low reproductive number, MERS does not result in large disease outbreaks. That is the reason there is no vaccine for MERS. When an outbreak of MERS appears, it dies out quickly. Which means the development of a vaccine is not practical.

$R_0$  is affected by several factors including: the proportion of susceptible people at the start of the outbreak, the density of the population, the infectiousness of the virus, the rate of disappearance of cases (either recovered individuals, vaccinated individuals, or unfortunately, by death, in some of the population). Population density is one key reason NYC was an initial hotspot.

Scientists estimated that SARS-CoV2 had an initial  $R_0$  of between 2-3. Which means that between 50-60% of the population would need immunity either by having recovered from the virus, some other innate immune response, or by vaccine, in order to exterminate the outbreak ( $R_0$  less than 1).

So, where do we stand in Georgia today: the  $R_0$  of Georgia according <https://rt.live> is .99 (so, less than 1.0, meaning the virus is stopping its spread and will eventually go away).



But, how can that be?

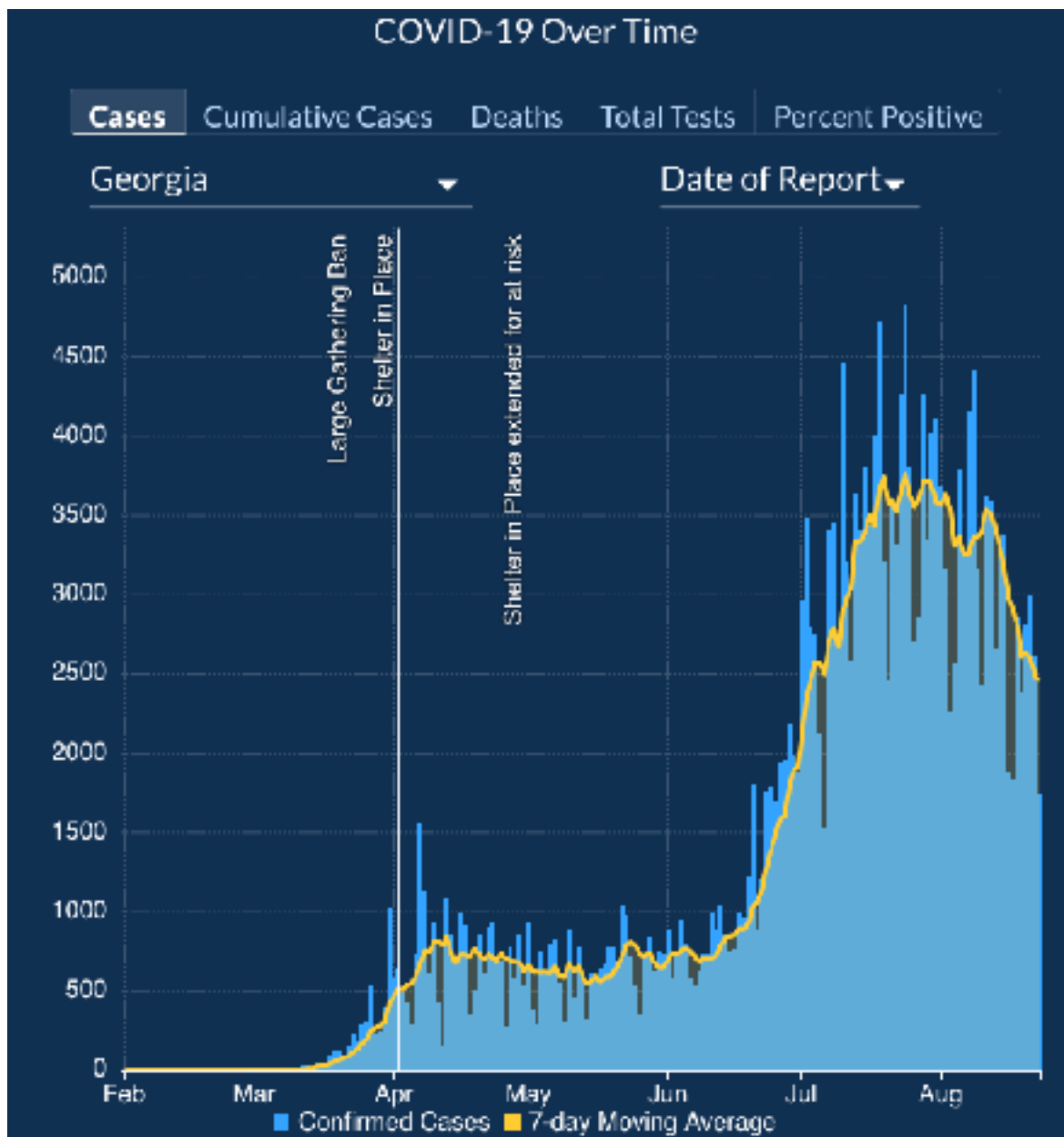
If SARS-CoV-2 had an initial  $R_0$  of between 2-3, why is Georgia currently below an  $R_0$  of 1?

Simply, we have reached the point where either through prior exposure to other coronaviruses, strong innate immunity (young people and healthy adults), or people who have been infected and recovered; we are approaching that 50-60% level of immunity.

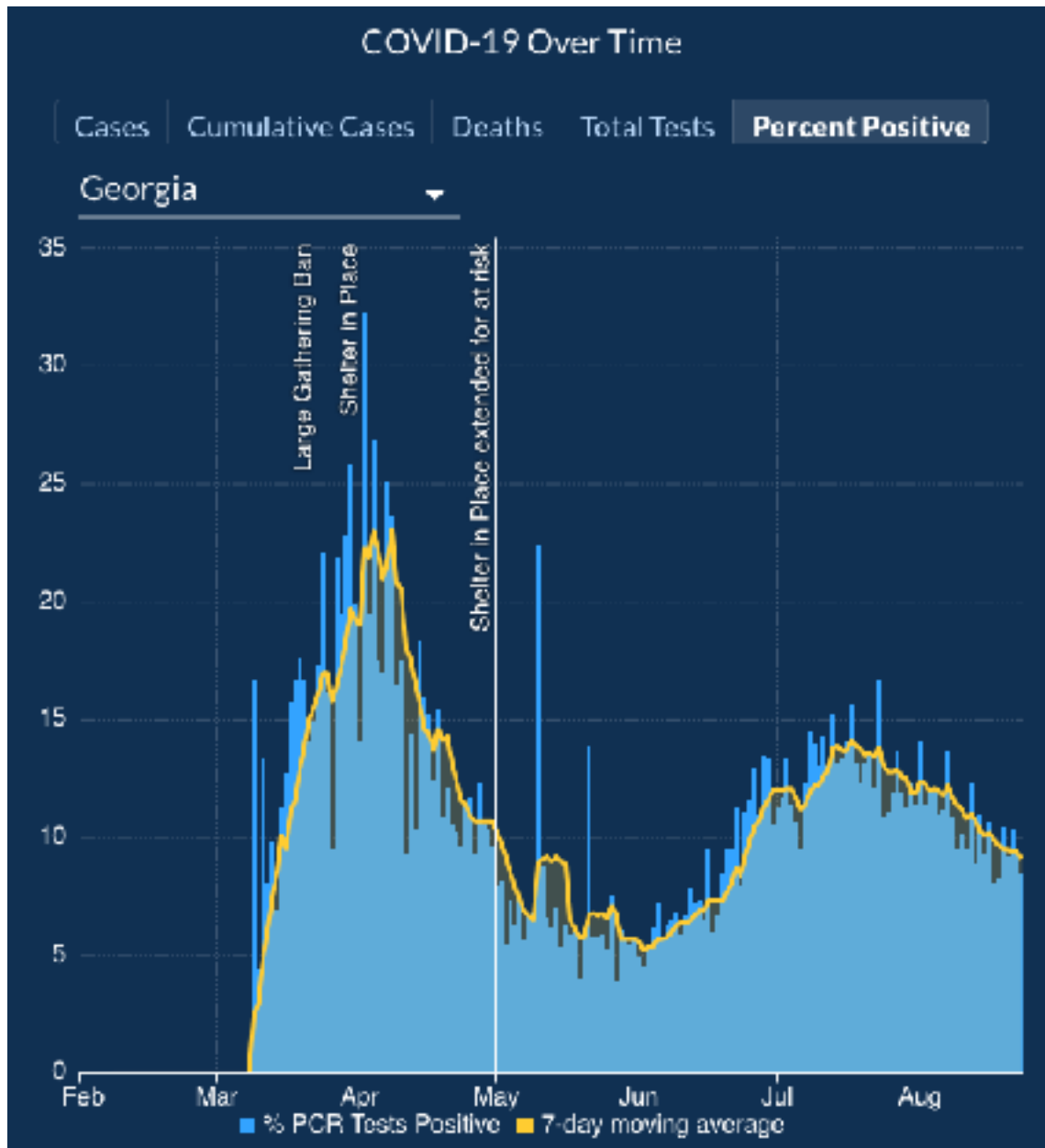
The country, the state and our City has taken a very wise approach to combatting the virus. On March 15, we launched 15 days to stop the spread (by the way that was 161 days ago).

The point of this program was to prevent our hospitals and ICU's from being overwhelmed with very sick people. It worked, with the exception of a few very densely populated areas, most of the country did not have overwhelmed hospitals and ICU's. We were never expected to lock down and wear masks until there was no more infection or a virus was developed.

Georgia began to re-open on April 24th and by July 1st, we were back in restaurants and businesses. Not surprisingly cases began to rise, and according to the Georgia Department of Public Health, peaked on on July 24th and have been declining since.



This is surprising given that the levels of testing have drastically increased since we started testing. The most recent data reveals that the current positive rate of tests stands at 8.4% after peaking at over 25%. However, I believe the number of cases is irrelevant. We have performed more tests for SARS-CoV-2 than in 50 years of seasonal influenza tests.



What matters is the death rate. We actually want the young and health adults to have immunity to SARS-CoV-2 to protect the elderly and people with co-morbidities.

How many people in North Fulton have died from SARS CoV-2 since the outbreak? The most recent Fulton County epidemiology report indicates as of 8/19 - 91 people in the North Fulton area have died from SARS-Cov-2

B. Distribution of COVID-19 deaths by gender, age, and race in Fulton County by Fulton Region

|                              | North Fulton Cities <sup>1</sup><br>Count (%) | Atlanta<br>Count (%) | South Fulton Cities <sup>2</sup><br>Count (%) | Unknown City<br>Count (%) | All Fulton<br>Count (%) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Total COVID-19 deaths</b> | 91                                            | 228                  | 124                                           | 37                        | 480                     |
| <b>Gender: Female</b>        | 40 (44.0%)                                    | 101 (44.3%)          | 66 (53.2%)                                    | 22 (59.5%)                | 229 (47.7%)             |
| <b>Male</b>                  | 51 (56.0%)                                    | 127 (55.7%)          | 58 (46.8%)                                    | 15 (40.5%)                | 251 (52.3%)             |
| <b>Unknown</b>               | 0                                             | 0                    | 0                                             | 0                         | 0                       |
| <b>Age: ≤ 29</b>             | 0                                             | <10                  | <10                                           | 0                         | <10                     |
| <b>30-39</b>                 | <10                                           | <10                  | <10                                           | 0                         | 10 (2.1%)               |
| <b>40-49</b>                 | <10                                           | <10                  | <10                                           | <10                       | 18 (3.8%)               |
| <b>50-59</b>                 | <10                                           | 19 (8.3%)            | 16 (12.9%)                                    | <10                       | 40 (8.3%)               |
| <b>60-69</b>                 | <10                                           | 45 (19.7%)           | 31 (25.0%)                                    | <10                       | 86 (18.3%)              |
| <b>≥ 70</b>                  | 73 (80.2%)                                    | 149 (65.4%)          | 67 (54.0%)                                    | 31 (83.8%)                | 320 (66.7%)             |
| <b>Unknown</b>               | 0                                             | 0                    | 0                                             | 0                         | 0                       |

Of those 91 deaths, people over aged 70 and above accounted for 73 of the deaths. There are zero deaths in people age under the age of 30... zero. That means that we have 18 deaths from SARS-CoV-2 between people aged 30-69. I can't find the specific numbers for ages of deaths in the 30-69 range, but it would be a rationale assumption to assume most of the deaths were people aged 50+ and/or significant co-morbid disease (type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, CVD, obesity, etc.)

So given this data, what does good government require?

Follow the science... continue the current course of action.

As the virus disappears, allow restaurants and shops to fully open, encourage citizens under the age of 70 and with out co-morbid risk factors to return to normal life, and protect the elderly and infirm until the outbreak is over or we have a vaccine.

If you have been out to a restaurant or bar in Alpharetta, it's clear that the majority of people aren't wearing masks or social distancing. Until recently, large retailers weren't requiring masks and a good percentage of people didn't wear them. Yet, the trends all point to SARS-CoV-2 abating. That is because the same thing is happening that happens with other viruses, we are reaching a level of immunity that is preventing the spread.

Some people say, "well, it can't hurt to mandate that everyone wears masks in social settings". But that's not actually true.

First, our immune systems are designed to be exposed to microorganisms through social interaction. Limiting a healthy person's interactions with other people impact the adaptive part of our immune system, making us more likely to get sick.

Second, there will be an economic impact to our City. A mask mandate sends a message the virus is spreading faster and the infection rate is increasing. Otherwise, why weren't masks mandated earlier?

Some people will see this mandate and believe the situation is getting worse. They may limit their dining out and shopping. Others may limit their dining out and shopping behavior because they do not agree with the need for a mask mandate.

Alpharetta is reopened and we don't need to take a step backward when we are closer to the end of this pandemic than we are to the beginning.

For most of our business, the help they received in the form of PPP loans has been used up. If you know anything about a small business, especially a restaurant, they cannot survive at 25% or even 50% capacity. Extending lockdowns and mandating masks mean some of our businesses will close, landlords will file for bankruptcy, occupancy rates will plummet and our city will look very different in the near future.

I will provide a very personal example of how behavior will change under a mask mandate:

During and after the lockdown our family supported the City of Alpharetta restaurants; ordering carryout when restaurants were closed and dining out often when they opened.

In fact, our family has dined out at an Alpharetta, Crabapple, or Roswell restaurant every day in August. We don't wear masks except as required in retailers like Publix and Home Depot and we won't wear them outdoors or in restaurants. We simply will stop dining out in Alpharetta until a mask mandate is lifted.

Here is a list of where we have dined in the last 2 weeks in Alpharetta: Carson Kitchen (twice), Truck and Tap (twice), Oak Steakhouse, Pure Taqueria (3 times), Central City Tavern (twice), Ramen Bar by Hajime, Citizen Soul and Kona Grill. That doesn't include our visits to Little Alley Steak, Rock N Taco, Zest in Roswell, and Campania in Crabapple in August. During that time our total spending at City of Alpharetta restaurants totaled about \$1400. We will not wear masks outdoors or while dining, so our spending at restaurants in Alpharetta will go away if this ordinance passes.

I don't believe we are alone in our belief against a mask mandate. It will have an economic impact on the city of Alpharetta and given the data I have shared with you, is completely unnecessary.

I urge you to vote no on this ordinance.

Regards,

Larry Hall

1210 Wellington Place

Alpharetta, GA 30004

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:03:38 PM

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Dear Mayor and City Council,

Now that the governor has changed his position I hope that you will please consider a mask mandate to help protect your citizens from this virus. When driving through downtown Alpharetta it is very discouraging to see the high percentage of individuals walking near others without masks.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Patricia Kerr

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Mask mandate  
**Date:** Friday, August 21, 2020 7:18:59 PM

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To whom it may concern:

As a resident of Alpharetta for 13 years, I am concerned that you will cave to the draconian narrative that is befallen many cities in Georgia. If this board passes a city mask mandate, we will vote out every official involved. Please protect the right to wear or not to wear a mask in a free society.

Thank you  
Christopher Dove  
Alpharetta.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate  
**Date:** Friday, August 21, 2020 3:09:51 PM

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Good day to you all!

My name is Gina Daunt and I have lived in Alpharetta for more than 21 years and have worked for the Roswell Fire Department for the past 23 years. As you know, our Fire Chief has been hospitalized for more than two weeks and is currently on a ventilator at Wellstar North Fulton hospital after contracting COVID-19 along with numerous other firefighters/Chief Officers and other City of Roswell employees who have caught this devastating disease.

It has come to my attention that a mask mandate for the City of Alpharetta will be coming up for discussion at the next Council meeting and I would like to absolutely lend my voice and beg you to approve such measures.

I do realize that the Governor has stunted the full power you have with this authority, but I urge you to please approve a City wide mask mandate for the sake of your employees!

It's the least you can do!

Thank you for listening, you are welcome to email or call if you need to.

Gina Daunt  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate in Alpharetta  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:18:21 AM

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To whom it may concern:

I wanted to send a note in support of the Mask Mandate the Mayor and City Council are considering this evening. I work for one of the companies (Cepheid) that produces one of the tests for COVID and we are constantly in communication with the COVID Taskforce, the CDC and WHO and they all recommend facial coverings in Public Places where Social Distancing can't be maintained. This Pandemic has been devastating to communities, local businesses, schools etc. but with proper protocols we should be able to maintain them all. Germany, France, Holland, Australia, New Zealand and more all had mask mandates requiring face coverings in Public areas, and all of them are enjoying the benefits of those mandates. Their schools have opened, their businesses are operating and although this disease hasn't been pushed back with a vaccine they are still able to enjoy a more normalized existence. The role of Government is to put its constituents well being first, even if those decisions aren't always the most popular. I for one, am in favor of sacrificing for the common good, to flatten out the curve until a vaccination is developed and we can go back to complete normalcy. Please know you have mine, and my families full support of a mask mandate to help save lives, get our schools back open and get our city and our nation on the road to recovery.

Sincerely,  
The Merrill's  
Cisco, Jill, [REDACTED]  
2050 Lake Shore Landing  
Alpharetta, GA 30005

Cisco Merrill  
Director of Sales, Alternate Site  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gilvin, Jim](#); [Mitchell, Donald](#); [Burnett, Ben](#); [Richard, Karen](#); [Hipes, John](#); [Binder, Jason](#); [Merkel, Dan](#)  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate Vote  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:09:27 PM

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On May 7 and 8, 2020, I emailed each of you about a dangerous situation on Milton Avenue. About 25 people were blocking the sidewalk, drinking, with no mask and no social distancing. I believe, at the time, alcohol could only be served with food and this restaurant doesn't even have a kitchen. This was an unnecessary risk. When I emailed all of you with my condition and asked where the Alpharetta police were to clear this group, I was told you couldn't enforce safety on our streets because your governor said you could not. The state would take care of enforcement. He also prohibited any mask ordinance to protect your citizens.

At that time roughly 775 people, human beings had died. Since then, protective mask mandates forbidden and the bars etc. opened wide, we have over 5,000 Georgians dead under Kemp's rule and interference. All of these people did not have to die. He ignored all scientific and expert advice.

Now the failed governor has given you permission to protect your your citizens, four months after his crucial mistakes. You can now mandate masks, a simple act to protect other people and even the selfish ignorant people who feel being a little uncomfortable (it isn't) is a "bridge too far".

Interesting that the governor appears to be blaming you for not enforcing his executive orders, after he explicitly told you it was the state's responsibility. Now he's telling you to do it, because he failed.

You have the chance to belatedly protect the citizens of Alpharetta. Please do not abdicate this responsibility again.

Kemp has created this surge by his poor arrogant choices, taking us to #1 in the country and doing nothing to control the surge in community spread.

You owe it to the thousands of Alpharetta residents, wearing masks, being careful, to help us stay safe.  
Please vote to help protect us.

After six months of townhouse arrest, I'll be watching the streaming meeting.

Regards,

William and Deborah Jones  
2016 Hidden Alley  
Alpharetta

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Mask mandate  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:53:26 AM

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Please vote for a face mask mandate. The mask will help reduce the number of transmissions of COVID. Hopefully our children will be able to return to school soon and the numbers will decline. I implore you to do your job and protect our citizens. Thank you. Barb McHugh

Please note my new email address [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Mask mandates  
**Date:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 9:57:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [Epidemiology Report - COVID 19 by City and ZIP - 081920.pdf](#)

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Dear Mayor and City Council,

For the record, I oppose mask mandates by any government, city, state, or national. The evidence suggests it is not necessary.

**Fulton County Board of Health Epidemiology Report** COVID-19 Diagnoses – 8/19/2020

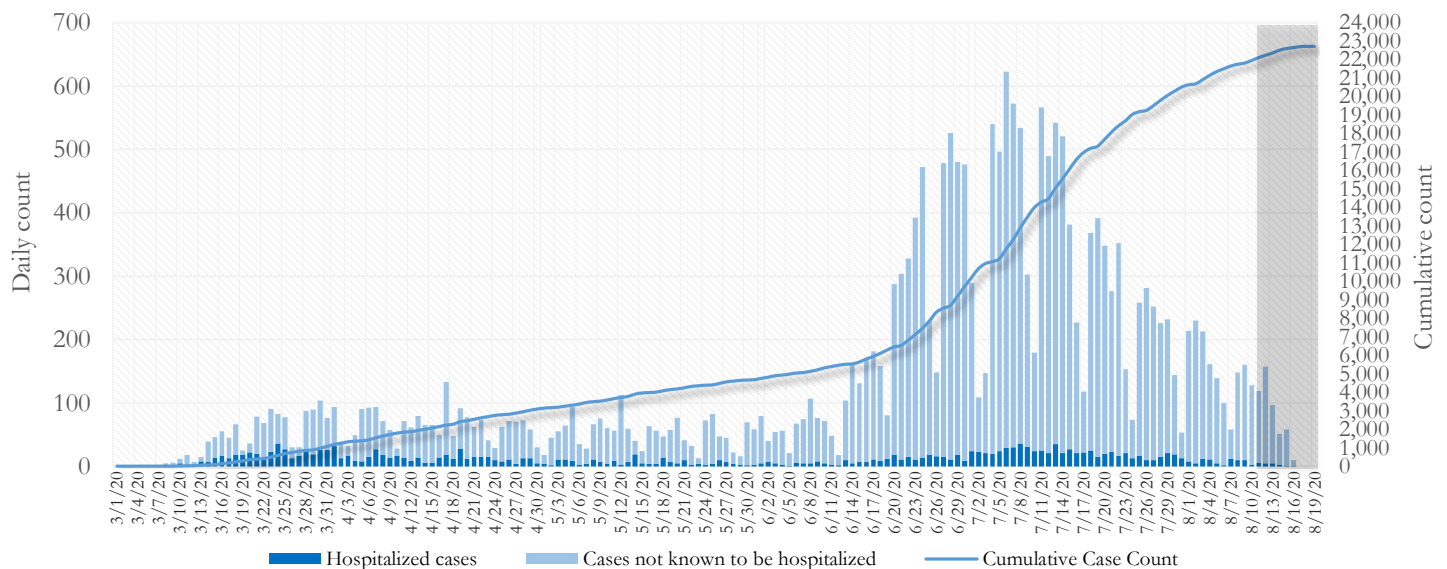
Troy Janda  
4415 Mariners Ridge  
Alpharetta, GA. 30005

[REDACTED]

## SUMMARY

- As of August 19, 2020, Fulton County has recorded **22,742** cases of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and **480** deaths.
- Of 2,447 **new diagnoses** made between July 30 and August 12, the central portion of the county (Atlanta metro) accounted for 35% while the northern and southern parts accounted for 31% and 21% respectively.
- By city, **new** COVID-19 diagnoses rates range from 139.9 per 100,000 persons (Johns Creek) to 503.1 per 100,000 persons (Palmetto). [Fulton County Diagnoses Rates (per 100,000 persons): Cumulative – 2137.5; Incident –230.0]. See map showing incident case rate by ZIP code on Pg.4.
- Among all persons diagnosed with COVID-19 in Fulton County, 8.9% required hospitalization and 2.1% died.
- Residents and staff of long-term care facilities account for 7.6% of COVID-19 diagnoses and 44.4% of COVID-19 deaths in Fulton County.

**Fig 1. Daily and Cumulative COVID-19 diagnoses in Fulton County, GA**



\*Counts shown reflect the number of confirmed cases as of 9:00am on 8/19/20 using the date of first positive sample collection. Where date of sample collection was not available or missing, the date of report creation in GA SENDSS was used instead. **Note:** All data reported are preliminary and subject to change. Delays in data reporting may cause changes in data counts, particularly in the shaded portion.

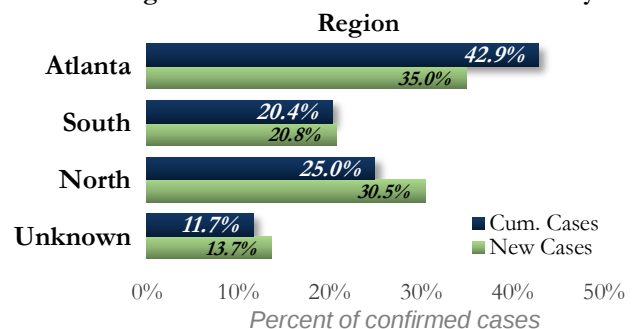
## DISTRIBUTION OF COVID-19 DIAGNOSES BY REGION

**New cases:** 35% of the new COVID-19 cases diagnosed in the past 2 weeks occurred in Atlanta while 31% and 21% occurred in the Northern and Southern regions of the county respectively.

| Fulton Region          | % Cumulative count | % New cases* |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Atlanta                | 42.9%              | 35.0%        |
| North <sup>1</sup>     | 25.0%              | 30.5%        |
| South <sup>2</sup>     | 20.4%              | 20.8%        |
| Unincorporated/Unknown | 11.7%              | 13.7%        |

<sup>1</sup>Includes all Fulton County cities north of Atlanta metro (Alpharetta, Milton, Johns Creek, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Mountain Park) | <sup>2</sup>Includes all cities south of Atlanta (College Park, Chattahoochee Hills, East Point, Hapeville, Palmetto, South Fulton, Fairburn, and Union City) \***New cases:** Cases diagnosed in the past 2 weeks only (between 7/30/20 – 8/12/20).

**Fig. 2. Distribution of COVID 19 cases by Region**

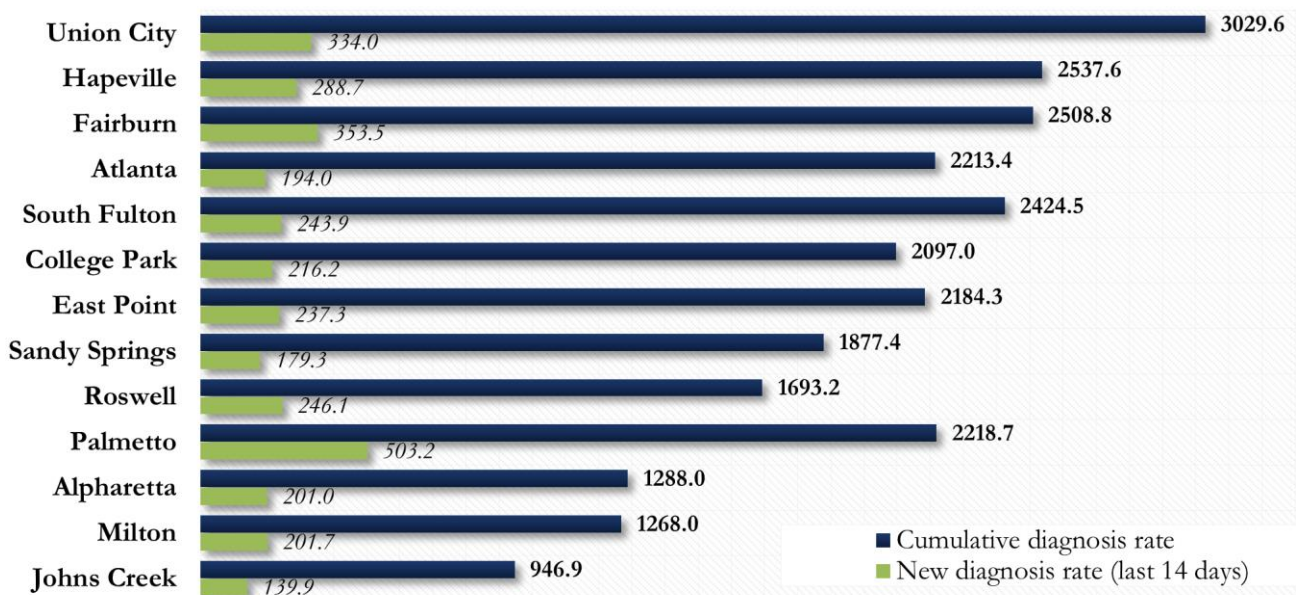


## COVID-19 CASE COUNTS AND RATES BY CITY

|                    | Prior (8/17/20) | Current Total (8/19/20) |       |                        | New Cases (Period: 7/15/20 – 8/12/20) <sup>1</sup> |                           |                       |                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                    | Count           | Count                   | %     | Cum. Rate <sup>2</sup> | 1 <sup>st</sup> 14 d.<br>(7/15–7/29)               | Last 14 d.<br>(7/29–8/12) | % change <sup>3</sup> | Rate <sup>4</sup><br>(Last 14 d). |
| Atlanta            | 9516            | 9765                    | 42.9% | 2213.4                 | 1553                                               | 856                       | ↓ 44.9%               | 194.0                             |
| South Fulton       | 2245            | 2306                    | 10.1% | 2424.5                 | 421                                                | 232                       | ↓ 44.9%               | 243.9                             |
| Sandy Springs      | 1933            | 1979                    | 8.7%  | 1877.4                 | 345                                                | 189                       | ↓ 45.2%               | 179.3                             |
| Roswell            | 1530            | 1596                    | 7.0%  | 1693.2                 | 432                                                | 232                       | ↓ 46.3%               | 246.1                             |
| East Point         | 746             | 764                     | 3.4%  | 2184.3                 | 164                                                | 83                        | ↓ 49.4%               | 237.3                             |
| Johns Creek        | 753             | 792                     | 3.5%  | 946.9                  | 190                                                | 117                       | ↓ 38.4%               | 139.9                             |
| Union City         | 611             | 635                     | 2.8%  | 3029.6                 | 119                                                | 70                        | ↓ 41.2%               | 334.0                             |
| Alpharetta         | 795             | 833                     | 3.7%  | 1288.0                 | 217                                                | 130                       | ↓ 40.1%               | 201.0                             |
| Milton             | 457             | 484                     | 2.1%  | 1268.0                 | 93                                                 | 77                        | ↓ 17.2%               | 201.7                             |
| Fairburn           | 360             | 369                     | 1.6%  | 2508.8                 | 77                                                 | 52                        | ↓ 32.5%               | 353.5                             |
| College Park       | 280             | 291                     | 1.3%  | 2097.0                 | 56                                                 | 30                        | ↓ 46.4%               | 216.2                             |
| Palmetto           | 94              | 97                      | 0.4%  | 2218.7                 | 14                                                 | 22                        | ↑ 57.1%               | 503.2                             |
| Hapeville          | 164             | 167                     | 0.7%  | 2537.6                 | 19                                                 | 19                        | -                     | 288.7                             |
| Mountain Park      | 5               | 5                       | 0.0%  | 800.0                  | <10                                                | <10                       | ↓ 33.3%               | 320.0                             |
| Chattahooche Hills | 0               | 0                       | 0.0%  | -                      | -                                                  | -                         | -                     | -                                 |
| Unknown            | 3253            | 2659                    | 11.7% | -                      | 555                                                | 332                       | -                     | -                                 |

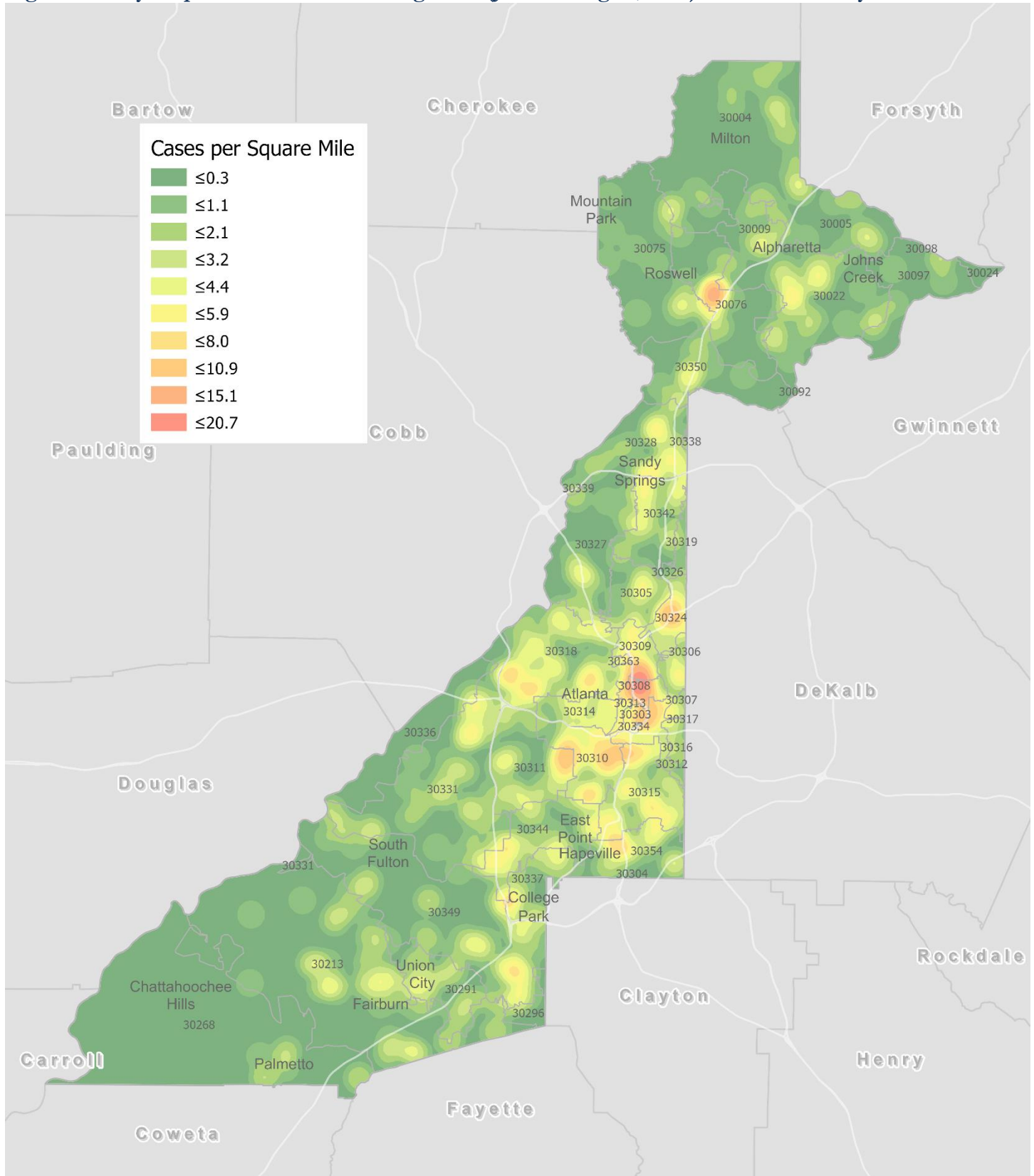
<sup>1</sup>**New cases:** Cases diagnosed in most recent 28 days (based on reported dates of positive sample collection). To allow for lag in reporting results of new diagnoses from samples collected in the most recent week, data used for incident diagnoses analyses were moved back by one week. <sup>2</sup>**Cumulative diagnosis rate:** Population estimates from US Census Bureau used to calculate cumulative diagnoses rate. All rates shown are per 100,000 persons. <sup>3</sup>**% change:** These reflect the percentage increase or decrease in new diagnoses between the 14 days preceding the most recent 7 days and the 14 days preceding that. Changes in cities with less than 10 cases in both 2 week intervals are not reported. <sup>4</sup>**(Incidence) Rate:** Rate of new diagnoses in the last 14 day period preceding the immediate past week. **\*\*Data cleaning** (either during case interviews or address geo-coding) may lead to reassignment of few cases from one territory to another based on their corrected addresses. These may appear as “decreases” when compared to the previous day’s count. These do not reflect errors in the data collection or analysis process but only reflect the minor day-to-day fluctuations in case counts that arise in an evolving public health database like COVID’s. **Note:** All data reported are preliminary and subject to change.

Fig. 3. Incident &amp; Cumulative Diagnoses Rates for COVID-19 by City



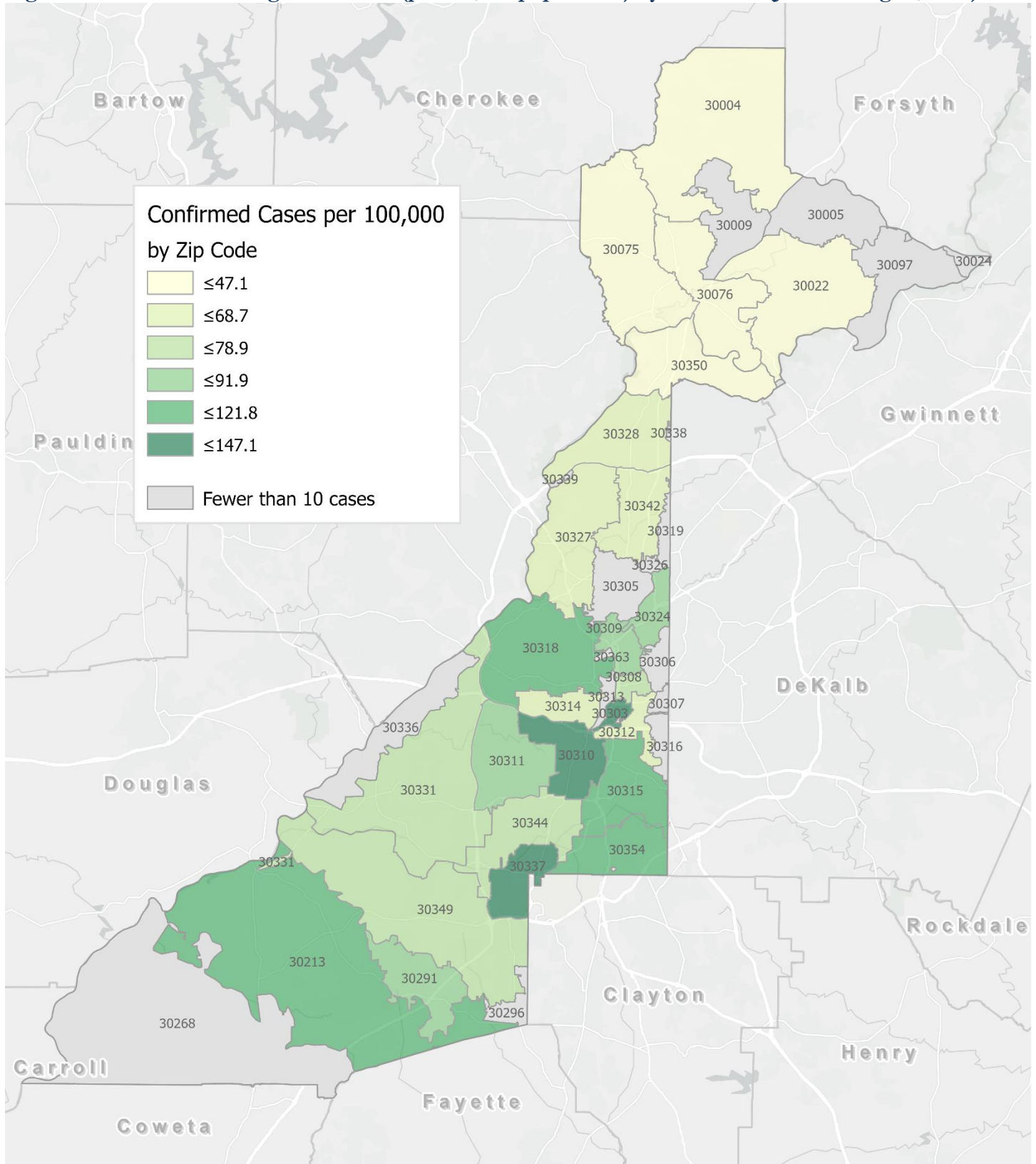
\*Rates shown are per 100,000 persons | **Note:** Mass testing in specific locations (e.g. long term care facilities) may cause sharp increases in the cumulative rate of COVID-19 diagnosis in those territories. All data shown are preliminary and are subject to change as testing results get updated.

**Fig. 4. Density Map – New COVID 19 Diagnoses (Jul 30 – Aug 12, 2020) in Fulton County**



**New COVID-19 cases:** Cases diagnosed in most recent 14 days (based on reported dates of positive sample collection). To allow for lag in reporting results of positive cases from samples collected in the immediate past 7 days, data used for incident diagnoses analyses are moved back by one week. Map reflects new COVID-19 cases diagnosed between July 30<sup>th</sup> and Aug 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 across Fulton County.

**Fig. 5. New COVID-19 Diagnoses Rates (per 100,000 population) by ZIP Code (Jul 30 – Aug 12, 2020)**



\*Rates shown are per 100,000 populations.

**New COVID-19 cases:** Cases diagnosed in most recent 14 days (based on reported dates of positive sample collection). To allow for lag in reporting results of positive cases from samples collected in the immediate past 7 days, data used for incident diagnoses analyses are moved back by one week. Data used excludes outbreak-related cases at long-term care facilities and map shown reflects only the new non-LTCF cases diagnosed between the dates shown in map title.

## COVID-19 CASE COUNTS BY ZIP CODE

|                   | Prior (8/17/20) | Current Total (8/19/20) |        | New Cases (Period: 7/15/20 – 8/12/20) <sup>1</sup> |                                 |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                   | Count           | Count                   | %      | 1st 14 days<br>(Jul 15 – Jul 29)                   | Last 14 d.<br>(Jul 30 – Aug 12) | % change <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>All Fulton</b> | 22074           | 22742                   | 100.0% | 4236                                               | 2447                            | ↓ 42.2%               |
| 30331             | 1449            | 1493                    | 6.6%   | 278                                                | 136                             | ↓ 51.1%               |
| 30318             | 1318            | 1350                    | 5.9%   | 233                                                | 125                             | ↓ 46.4%               |
| 30349             | 1482            | 1537                    | 6.8%   | 302                                                | 180                             | ↓ 40.4%               |
| 30213             | 875             | 897                     | 3.9%   | 179                                                | 118                             | ↓ 34.1%               |
| 30315             | 652             | 686                     | 3.0%   | 137                                                | 99                              | ↓ 27.7%               |
| 30344             | 685             | 702                     | 3.1%   | 157                                                | 80                              | ↓ 49.0%               |
| 30311             | 646             | 666                     | 2.9%   | 134                                                | 66                              | ↓ 50.7%               |
| 30342             | 969             | 993                     | 4.4%   | 136                                                | 71                              | ↓ 47.8%               |
| 30314             | 480             | 488                     | 2.1%   | 66                                                 | 42                              | ↓ 36.4%               |
| 30310             | 601             | 627                     | 2.8%   | 88                                                 | 63                              | ↓ 28.4%               |
| 30308             | 389             | 396                     | 1.7%   | 61                                                 | 29                              | ↓ 52.5%               |
| 30022             | 841             | 887                     | 3.9%   | 215                                                | 135                             | ↓ 37.2%               |
| 30327             | 396             | 400                     | 1.8%   | 49                                                 | 46                              | ↓ 6.1%                |
| 30004             | 710             | 745                     | 3.3%   | 156                                                | 111                             | ↓ 28.8%               |
| 30309             | 629             | 640                     | 2.8%   | 88                                                 | 54                              | ↓ 38.6%               |
| 30076             | 734             | 784                     | 3.4%   | 229                                                | 131                             | ↓ 42.8%               |
| 30291             | 632             | 652                     | 2.9%   | 116                                                | 65                              | ↓ 44.0%               |
| 30350             | 435             | 451                     | 2.0%   | 96                                                 | 52                              | ↓ 45.8%               |
| 30075             | 779             | 800                     | 3.5%   | 205                                                | 107                             | ↓ 47.8%               |
| 30328             | 630             | 643                     | 2.8%   | 136                                                | 69                              | ↓ 49.3%               |
| 30316             | 325             | 337                     | 1.5%   | 72                                                 | 37                              | ↓ 48.6%               |
| 30312             | 667             | 684                     | 3.0%   | 88                                                 | 40                              | ↓ 54.5%               |
| 30005             | 378             | 394                     | 1.7%   | 91                                                 | 64                              | ↓ 29.7%               |
| 30305             | 613             | 624                     | 2.7%   | 91                                                 | 38                              | ↓ 58.2%               |
| 30306             | 264             | 271                     | 1.2%   | 43                                                 | 24                              | ↓ 44.2%               |
| 30324             | 736             | 754                     | 3.3%   | 92                                                 | 61                              | ↓ 33.7%               |
| 30337             | 264             | 274                     | 1.2%   | 54                                                 | 26                              | ↓ 51.9%               |
| 30009             | 297             | 307                     | 1.3%   | 90                                                 | 41                              | ↓ 54.4%               |
| 30313             | 138             | 138                     | 0.6%   | 16                                                 | 17                              | ↑ 6.3%                |
| 30326             | 181             | 184                     | 0.8%   | 31                                                 | <10                             | ↓ 71.0%               |
| 30097             | 166             | 169                     | 0.7%   | 51                                                 | 14                              | ↓ 72.5%               |
| 30354             | 348             | 351                     | 1.5%   | 63                                                 | 39                              | ↓ 38.1%               |
| 30303             | 354             | 368                     | 1.6%   | 68                                                 | 22                              | ↓ 67.6%               |
| 30339             | 267             | 267                     | 1.2%   | 54                                                 | 43                              | ↓ 20.4%               |
| 30268             | 154             | 160                     | 0.7%   | 32                                                 | 32                              | -                     |
| 30307             | 149             | 155                     | 0.7%   | 38                                                 | 23                              | ↓ 39.5%               |
| 30319             | 105             | 107                     | 0.5%   | 12                                                 | <10                             | ↓ 41.7%               |
| 30336             | 77              | 77                      | 0.3%   | <10                                                | <10                             | -                     |
| 30296             | 38              | 38                      | 0.2%   | <10                                                | <10                             | -                     |
| 30363             | 53              | 53                      | 0.2%   | <10                                                | <10                             | -                     |
| 30301             | <10             | <10                     | <0.1%  | 0                                                  | 0                               | -                     |
| 30345             | 37              | 38                      | 0.2%   | <10                                                | <10                             | -                     |
| 31131             | <10             | <10                     | <0.1%  | <10                                                | 0                               | ↓ 100.0%              |
| 30023             | <10             | <10                     | <0.1%  | 0                                                  | 0                               | -                     |
| 30080             | <10             | <10                     | <0.1%  | <10                                                | <10                             | -                     |
| 30135             | <10             | <10                     | <0.1%  | 0                                                  | 0                               | -                     |
| 30138             | <10             | <10                     | <0.1%  | 0                                                  | 0                               | -                     |
| 30139             | -               | -                       | -      | 0                                                  | 0                               | -                     |
| 30321             | 10              | 10                      | <0.1%  | <10                                                | 0                               | ↓ 100.0%              |
| 30340             | 32              | 32                      | 0.1%   | <10                                                | <10                             | -                     |

|         |      |     |       |     |     |          |
|---------|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|----------|
| 30341   | 38   | 39  | 0.2%  | 10  | <10 | ↓ 70.0%  |
| 30358   | <10  | <10 | <0.1% | <10 | 0   | ↓ 100.0% |
| 30374   | 31   | 31  | 0.1%  | <10 | <10 | -        |
| 30606   | <10  | <10 | <0.1% | 0   | 0   | -        |
| 31150   | <10  | <10 | <0.1% | 0   | <10 | -        |
| 30024   | 11   | 12  | <0.1% | <10 | <10 | -        |
| 30098   | -    | -   | -     | 0   | 0   | -        |
| 30334   | 14   | 14  | <0.1% | <10 | <10 | -        |
| 30338   | 140  | 149 | 0.7%  | 41  | 21  | ↓ 48.8%  |
| Unknown | 1487 | 830 | 3.6%  | 94  | 78  | -        |

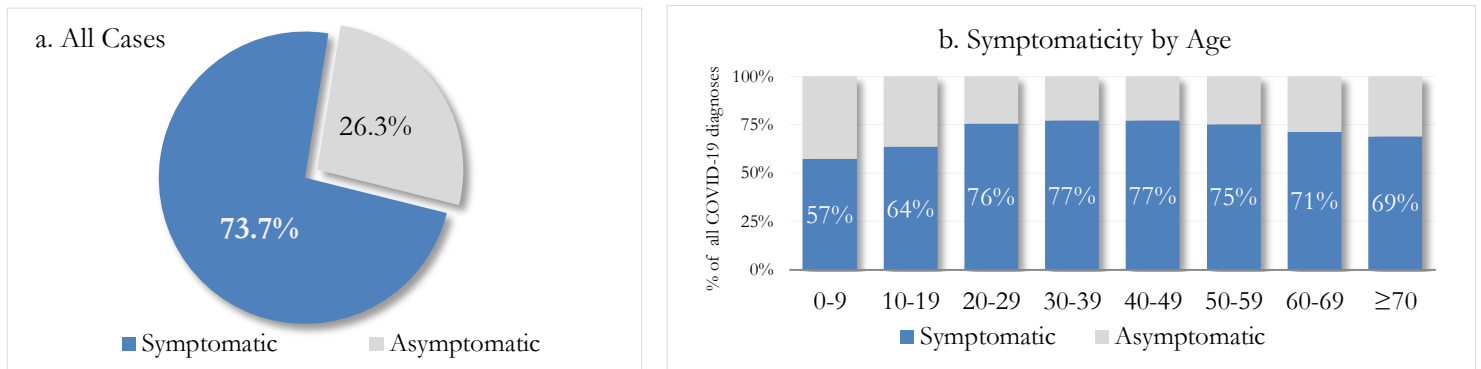
<sup>1</sup>**New cases:** Cases diagnosed in most recent 28 days (based on reported dates of positive sample collection). To allow for lag in reporting results of new diagnoses from samples collected in the most recent week, data used for incident diagnoses analyses were moved back by one week. <sup>2</sup>**Percent change:** These reflect the percentage increase or decrease of new diagnoses between the 14 days preceding the past 7 days and the 14 days preceding that. Changes in ZIP codes with less than 10 cases in both 2 week intervals are not reported. \*\*Data cleaning (either during case interviews or address geo-coding) may lead to reassignment of few cases from one territory to another based on their corrected addresses. These may appear as “decreases” when compared to the previous day’s count. These do not reflect errors in the data collection or analysis process but only reflect the minor day-to-day fluctuations in case counts that arise in an evolving public health database like COVID’s. **Note:** Sharp increases in territorial COVID case counts often reflect new cases diagnosed at long term care facilities located in those territories during facility-wide /mass screening events. **All data reported are preliminary and subject to change.**

## REPORTING SYMPTOMS AMONG PERSONS DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19 IN FULTON

People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms reported include: cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

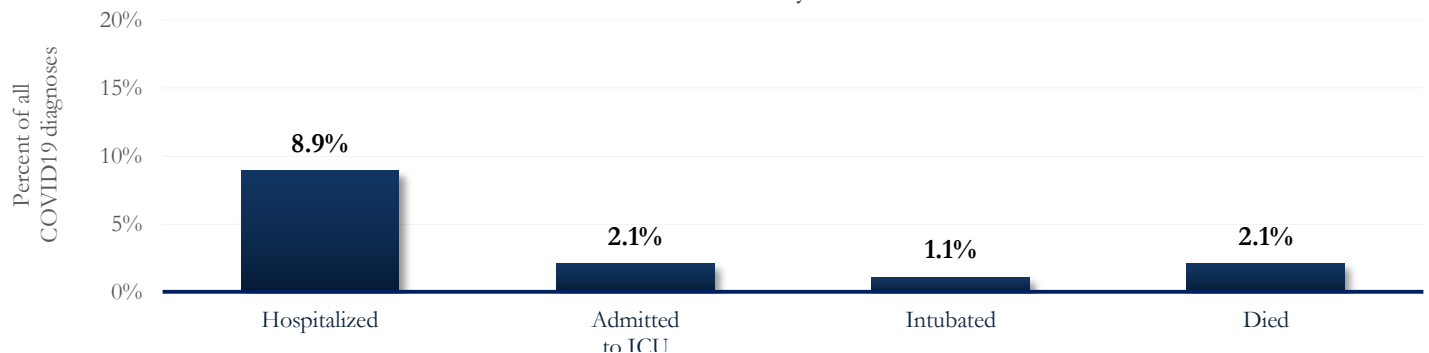
Fig. 6a & b. Proportion Reporting Symptoms in Fulton



\*\*\*COVID-19 cases who have been case interviewed or had medical charts reviewed as at 8/19/20 only\*\*\*

## COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS, ICU ADMISSIONS AND DEATHS IN FULTON

Fig. 7. Hospitalizations, ICU Admissions, Intubations, and Deaths among COVID-19 Diagnoses in Fulton County



## DEMOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTIONS – COVID 19 DIAGNOSES AND DEATHS

### A. Distribution of COVID-19 diagnoses by gender, age, and race in Fulton County by Fulton Region

|                             | North Fulton Cities <sup>1</sup><br>Count (%) | Atlanta<br>Count (%) | South Fulton Cities <sup>2</sup><br>Count (%) | Unknown City<br>Count (%) | All Fulton<br>Count (%) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Total COVID-19 cases</b> | 5689                                          | 9765                 | 4629                                          | 2659                      | 22742                   |
| <b>Gender:</b> Female       | 2794 (49.1%)                                  | 4672 (47.8%)         | 2516 (54.4%)                                  | 1297 (48.8%)              | 11279 (49.6%)           |
| Male                        | 2641 (46.4%)                                  | 4441 (45.5%)         | 1872 (40.4%)                                  | 1211 (45.5%)              | 10165 (44.7%)           |
| Unknown                     | 254 (4.5%)                                    | 652 (6.7%)           | 241 (5.2%)                                    | 151 (5.7%)                | 1298 (5.7%)             |
| <b>Age:</b> 0-9             | 178 (3.1%)                                    | 170 (1.7%)           | 133 (2.9%)                                    | 71 (2.7%)                 | 552 (2.4%)              |
| 10-19                       | 752 (13.2%)                                   | 572 (5.9%)           | 306 (6.6%)                                    | 170 (6.4%)                | 1800 (7.9%)             |
| 20-29                       | 1269 (22.3%)                                  | 2760 (28.3%)         | 918 (19.8%)                                   | 679 (25.5%)               | 5626 (24.7%)            |
| 30-39                       | 923 (16.2%)                                   | 2137 (21.9%)         | 946 (20.4%)                                   | 573 (21.5%)               | 4579 (20.1%)            |
| 40-49                       | 908 (16.0%)                                   | 1295 (13.3%)         | 830 (17.9%)                                   | 413 (15.5%)               | 3446 (15.2%)            |
| 50-59                       | 791 (13.9%)                                   | 1109 (11.4%)         | 651 (14.1%)                                   | 331 (12.4%)               | 2882 (12.7%)            |
| 60-69                       | 432 (7.6%)                                    | 752 (7.7%)           | 439 (9.5%)                                    | 208 (7.8%)                | 1831 (8.1%)             |
| ≥70                         | 429 (7.5%)                                    | 949 (9.7%)           | 393 (8.5%)                                    | 207 (7.8%)                | 1978 (8.7%)             |
| Unknown                     | <10                                           | 21 (0.2%)            | 13 (0.3%)                                     | <10                       | 48 (0.2%)               |
| <b>Race:</b> Asian, NH      | 127 (2.2%)                                    | 121 (1.2%)           | 16 (0.3%)                                     | 42 (1.6%)                 | 306 (1.3%)              |
| Black, NH                   | 505 (8.9%)                                    | 4034 (41.3%)         | 2529 (54.6%)                                  | 717 (27.0%)               | 7785 (34.2%)            |
| White, NH                   | 1468 (25.8%)                                  | 1543 (15.8%)         | 158 (3.4%)                                    | 468 (17.6%)               | 3637 (16.0%)            |
| Hispanic                    | 854 (15.0%)                                   | 513 (5.3%)           | 276 (6.0%)                                    | 244 (9.2%)                | 1887 (8.3%)             |
| Other, NH                   | 201 (3.5%)                                    | 251 (2.6%)           | 77 (1.7%)                                     | 97 (3.6%)                 | 626 (2.8%)              |
| Unknown                     | 2534 (44.5%)                                  | 3303 (33.8%)         | 1573 (34.0%)                                  | 1091 (41.0%)              | 8501 (37.4%)            |

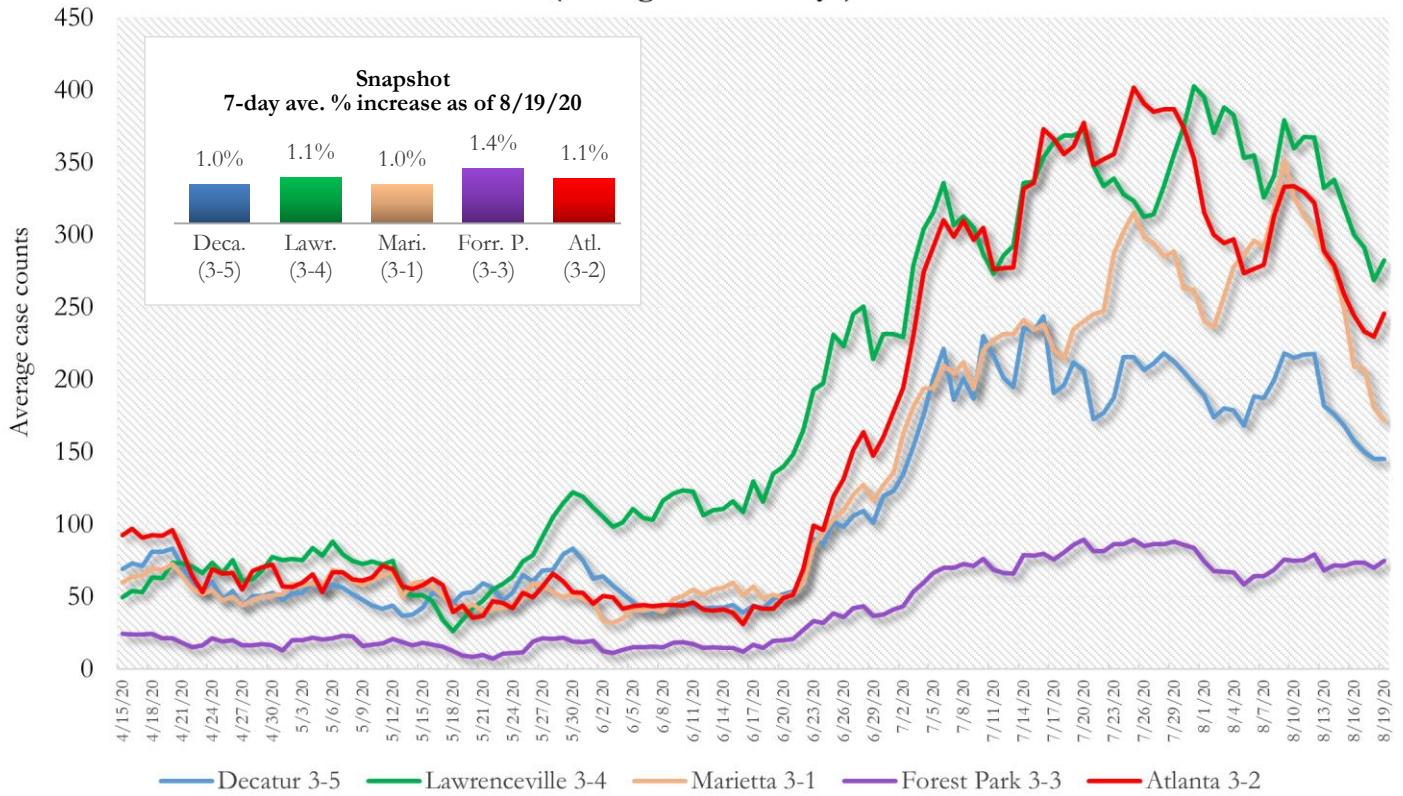
### B. Distribution of COVID-19 deaths by gender, age, and race in Fulton County by Fulton Region

|                              | North Fulton Cities <sup>1</sup><br>Count (%) | Atlanta<br>Count (%) | South Fulton Cities <sup>2</sup><br>Count (%) | Unknown City<br>Count (%) | All Fulton<br>Count (%) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Total COVID-19 deaths</b> | 91                                            | 228                  | 124                                           | 37                        | 480                     |
| <b>Gender:</b> Female        | 40 (44.0%)                                    | 101 (44.3%)          | 66 (53.2%)                                    | 22 (59.5%)                | 229 (47.7%)             |
| Male                         | 51 (56.0%)                                    | 127 (55.7%)          | 58 (46.8%)                                    | 15 (40.5%)                | 251 (52.3%)             |
| Unknown                      | 0                                             | 0                    | 0                                             | 0                         | 0                       |
| <b>Age:</b> ≤ 29             | 0                                             | <10                  | <10                                           | 0                         | <10                     |
| 30-39                        | <10                                           | <10                  | <10                                           | 0                         | 10 (2.1%)               |
| 40-49                        | <10                                           | <10                  | <10                                           | <10                       | 18 (3.8%)               |
| 50-59                        | <10                                           | 19 (8.3%)            | 16 (12.9%)                                    | <10                       | 40 (8.3%)               |
| 60-69                        | <10                                           | 45 (19.7%)           | 31 (25.0%)                                    | <10                       | 88 (18.3%)              |
| ≥70                          | 73 (80.2%)                                    | 149 (65.4%)          | 67 (54.0%)                                    | 31 (83.8%)                | 320 (66.7%)             |
| Unknown                      | 0                                             | 0                    | 0                                             | 0                         | 0                       |
| <b>Race:</b> Asian, NH       | <10                                           | <10                  | <10                                           | <10                       | <10                     |
| Black, NH                    | 17 (18.7%)                                    | 191 (83.8%)          | 106 (85.5%)                                   | 20 (54.1%)                | 334 (69.6%)             |
| White, NH                    | 68 (74.7%)                                    | 26 (11.4%)           | 11 (8.9%)                                     | 14 (37.8%)                | 118 (24.6%)             |
| Hispanic                     | <10                                           | <10                  | <10                                           | <10                       | 15 (3.1%)               |
| Other, NH                    | 0                                             | <10                  | <10                                           | 0                         | <10                     |
| Unknown                      | 0                                             | <10                  | 0                                             | 0                         | <10                     |

<sup>1</sup>Includes all Fulton County cities north of Atlanta metro (Alpharetta, Milton, Johns Creek, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Mountain Park ) <sup>2</sup>Includes all cities south of Atlanta (College Park, Chattahoochee Hills, East Point, Hapeville, Palmetto, South Fulton, Fairburn, Union City). **Note:** All data reported are preliminary and subject to change.

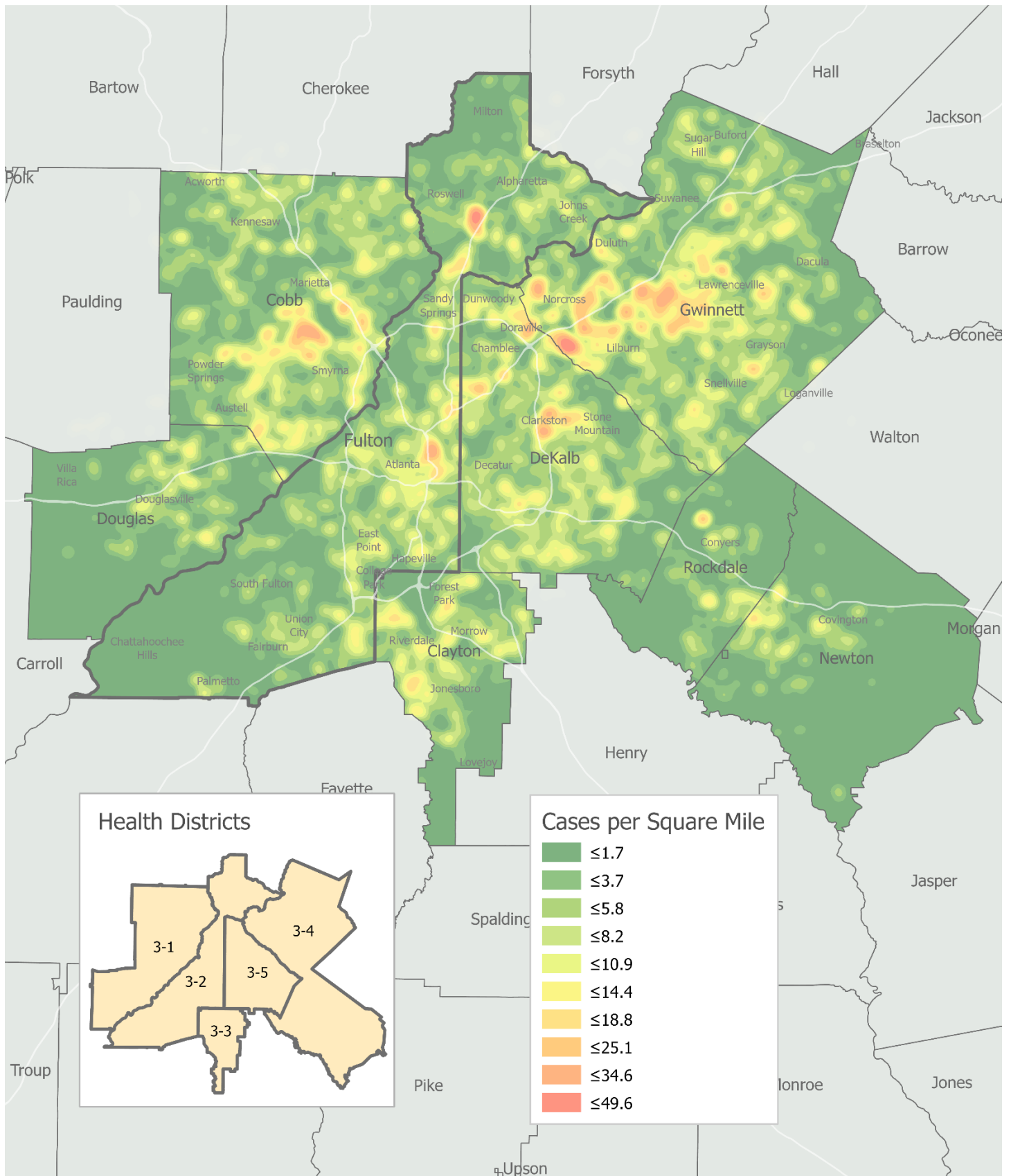
## COVID-19 CASE TRENDS IN FULTON AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS

**Fig. 8. Daily Case Counts for Atlanta Metro Districts  
(Averaged over 7 days)**



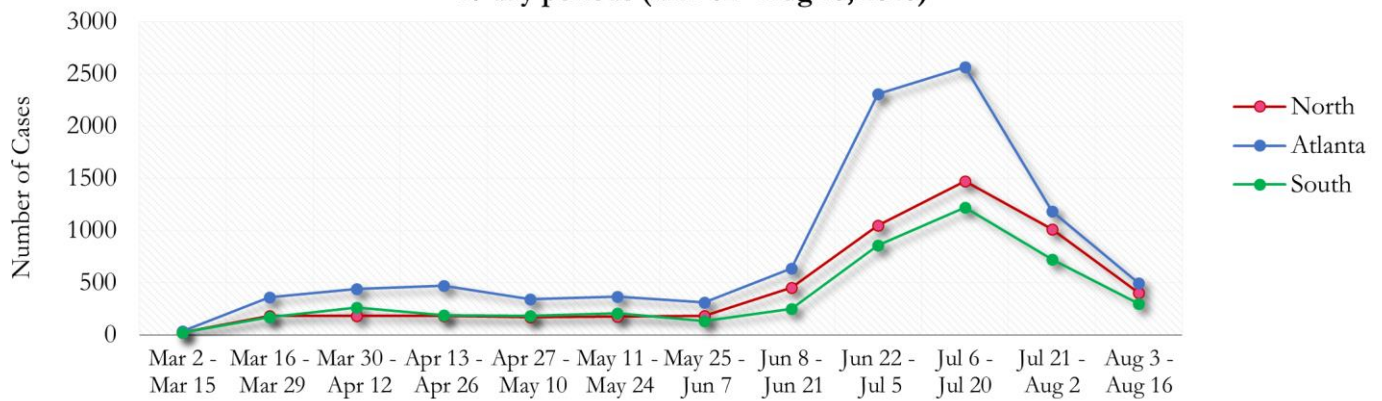
\*Graph shows the average number of cases calculated from the daily cumulative case counts in the metro Atlanta districts. Increases in daily cumulative case counts may include cases diagnosed earlier during the pandemic but were only recently reported to the state as cases diagnosed belonging to these districts.

Fig. 9. COVID-19 Cases in Fulton County and Surrounding Districts (Jul 28 – Aug 10, 2020)



## TRENDS IN COVID-19 CASES AMONG DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS (14 DAY PERIODS)

**Fig. 10. Trends in Geographic distribution of COVID -19 Diagnoses in Fulton County by 14-day periods (Mar 02 - Aug 16, 2020)**

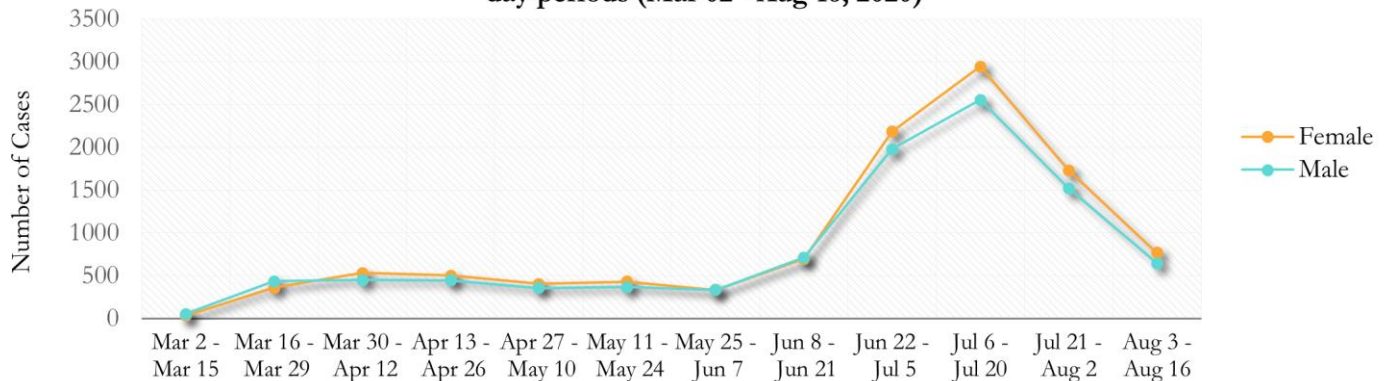


Atlanta metro has consistently accounted for the majority of newly diagnosed cases in Fulton County.

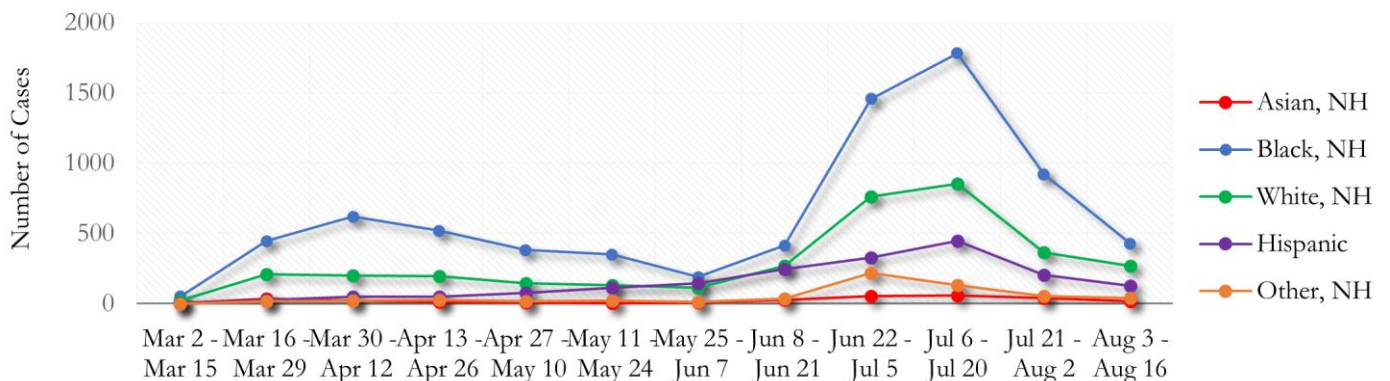
\*North - Includes all Fulton cities north of Atlanta metro (Alpharetta, Milton, Johns Creek, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Mountain Park)

\*South - Includes all Fulton cities south of Atlanta (College Park, Chattahoochee Hills, East Point, Hapeville, Palmetto, South Fulton, Fairburn, and Union City)

**Fig. 11. Trends in Gender Distribution of COVID -19 Diagnoses in Fulton County by 14-day periods (Mar 02 - Aug 16, 2020)**

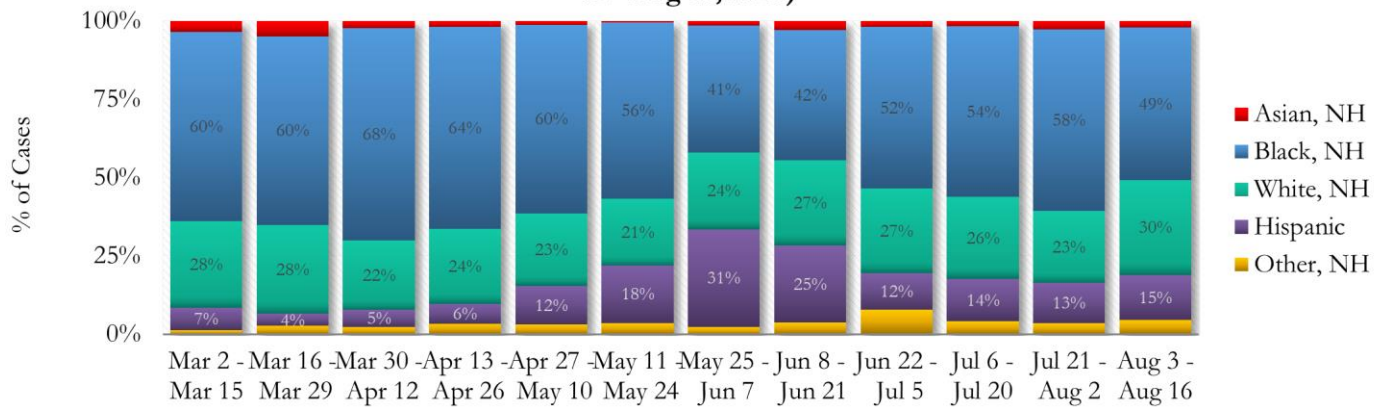


**Fig. 12. Trends in Racial Distribution of COVID -19 Diagnoses in Fulton County by 14-day periods (Mar 02 - Aug 16, 2020)**

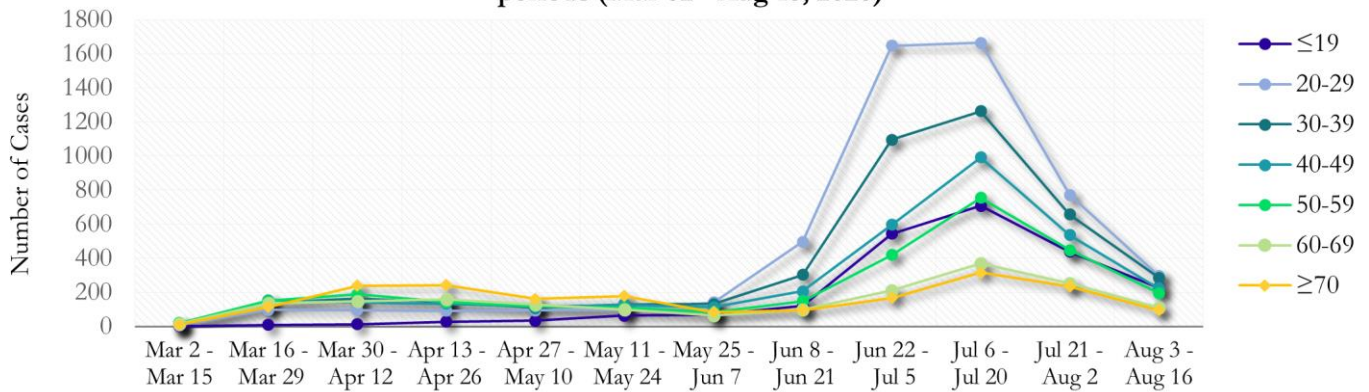


About 38% of COVID cases are missing data on patient race and ethnicity. Of cases with race and ethnicity reported, majority are Black non-Hispanic, followed by a smaller number of cases reporting White (non-Hispanic and Hispanic) race.

**Fig. 13. Racial Distribution of COVID -19 Cases in Fulton County by 14-day periods (Mar 02 - Aug 16, 2020)**

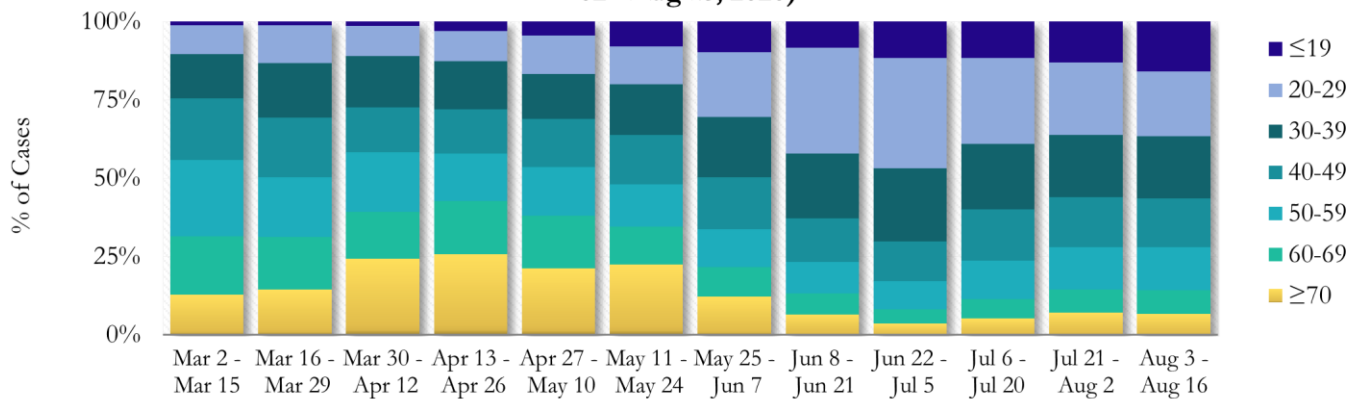


**Fig. 14. Trends in Age Distribution of COVID -19 Diagnoses in Fulton County by 14-day periods (Mar 02 - Aug 16, 2020)**



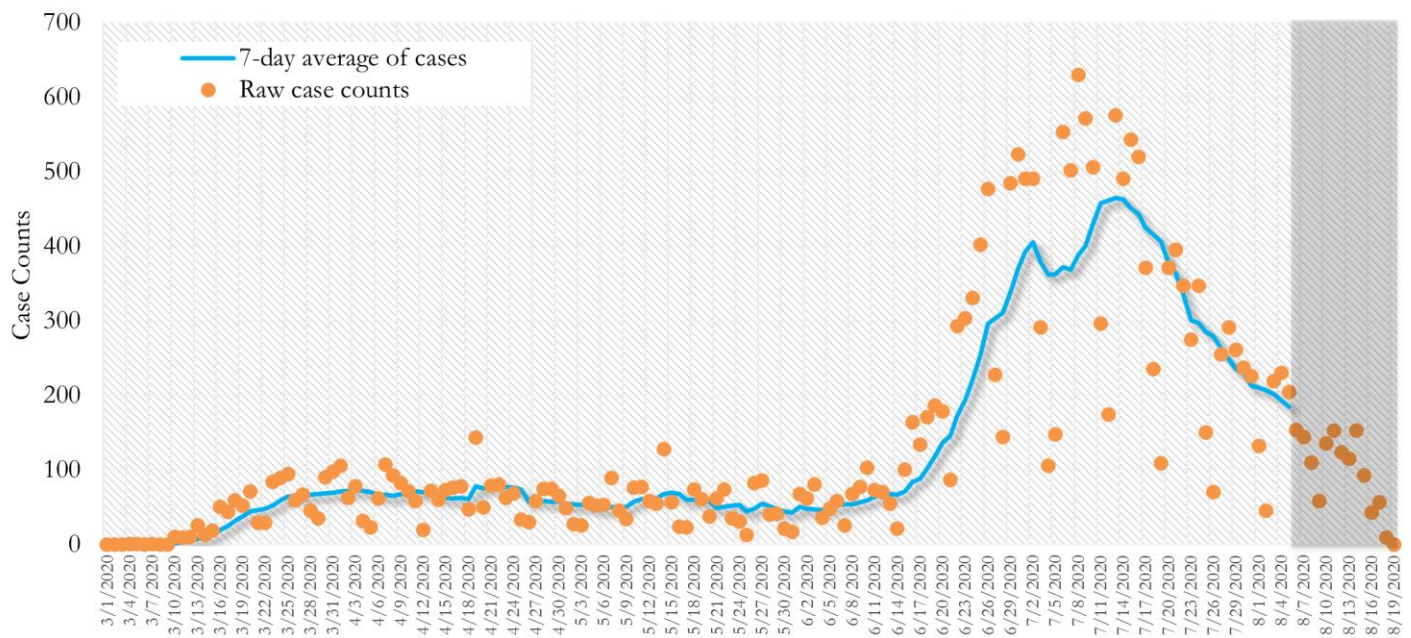
Earlier (March-May 2020) large proportions of reported cases were among persons aged 60 and older. However, starting in June, a much higher number of cases were among persons aged between 20-29 years.

**Fig. 15. Age Distribution of COVID -19 Cases in Fulton County by 14-day periods (Mar 02 - Aug 16, 2020)**



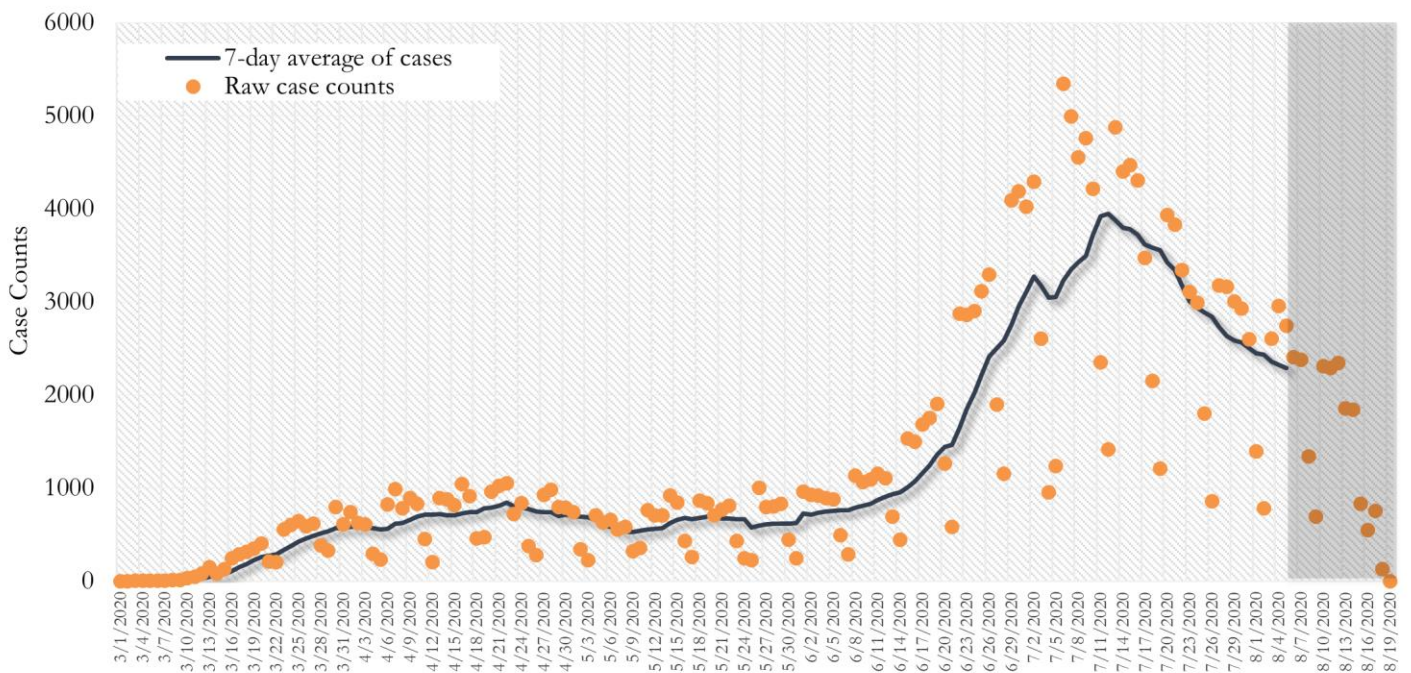
## TRENDS IN COVID-19 CASES, HOSPITALIZATIONS AND DEATHS (7-DAY MOVING AVE.)

Fig. 16. New COVID-19 Cases in Fulton County Daily (Averaged over 7 days)



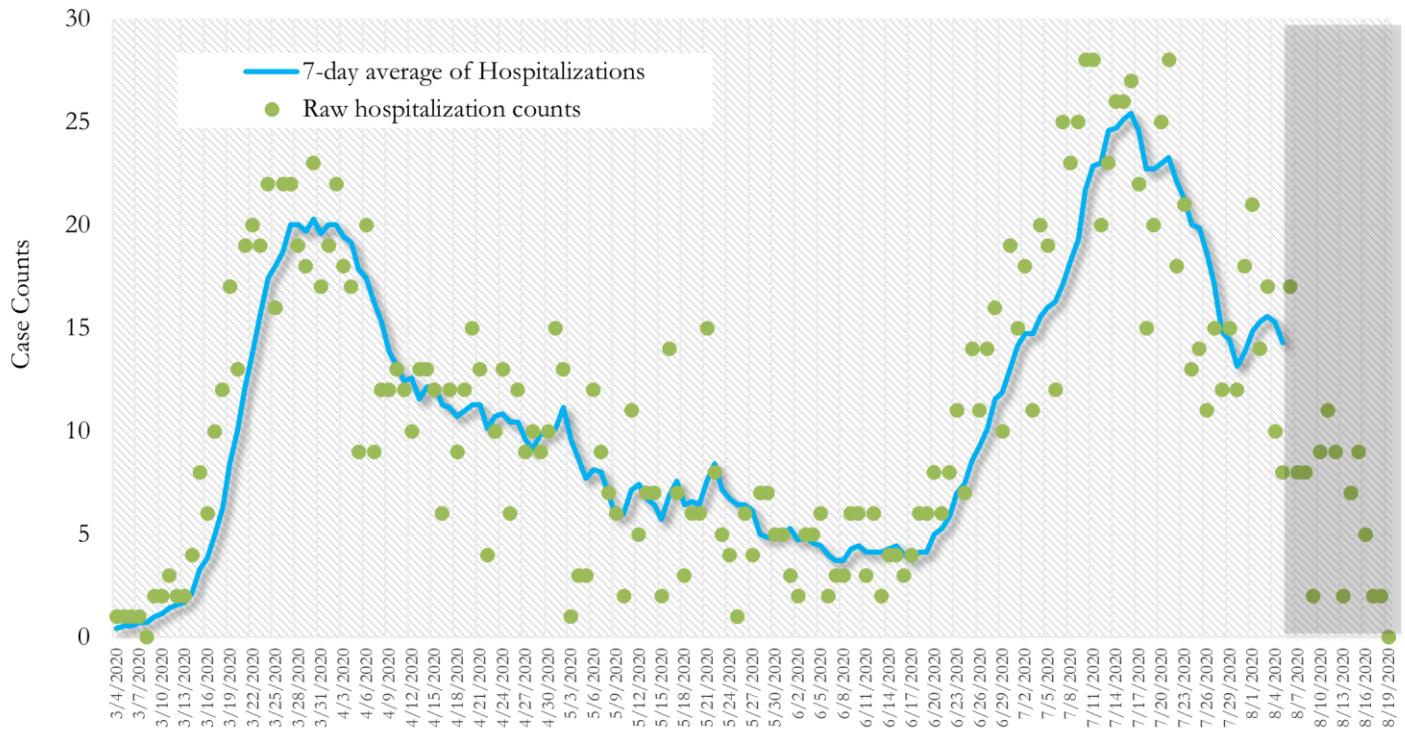
\*Date of collection of first positive sample used (report creation date used where sample collection date is missing). Graph above reflects the trend in COVID-19 diagnosis. Due to the high volume of testing in recent weeks, there have been delays in reporting lab results. Thus, the trend is subject to change as more lab results get added to the state surveillance database.

Fig. 17. New COVID-19 Cases in Georgia State Daily (Averaged over 7 days)



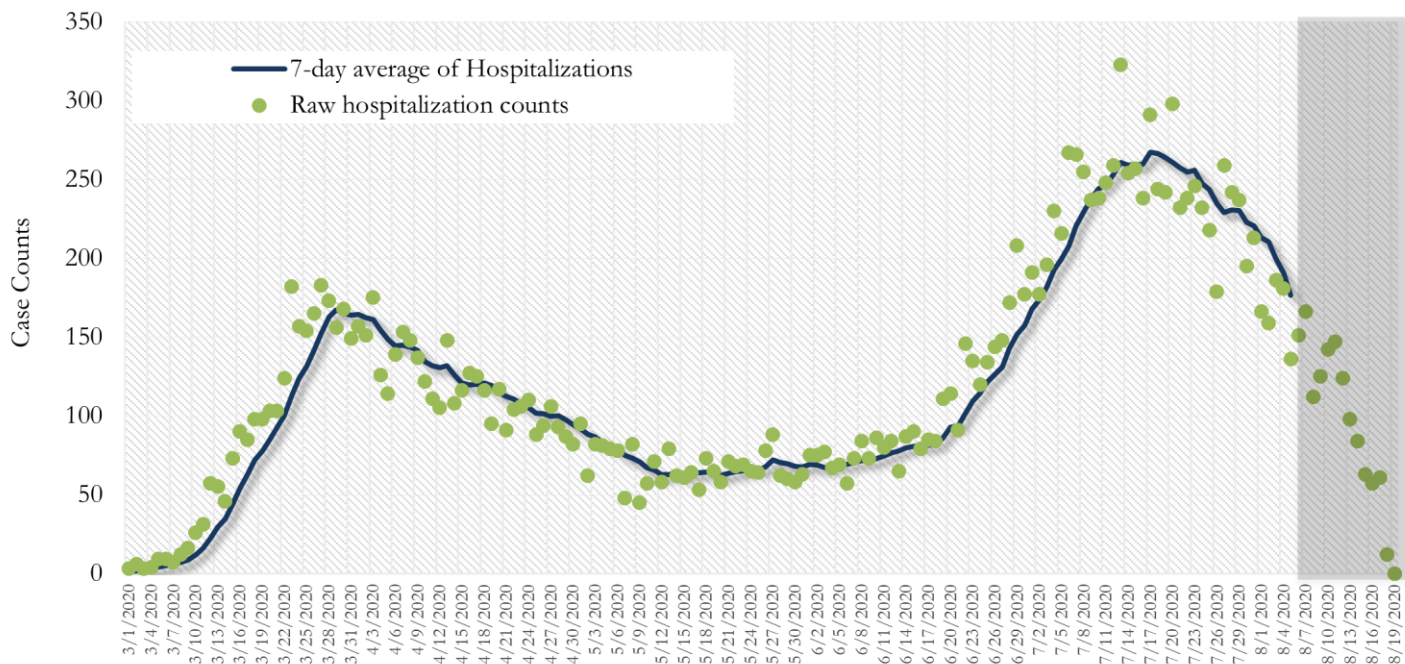
\*Date of collection of first positive sample used (report creation date used where sample collection date is missing). Graph above reflects the trend in COVID-19 diagnosis. Due to the high volume of testing in recent weeks, there have been delays in reporting lab results. Thus, the trend is subject to change as more lab results get added to the state surveillance database.

**Fig. 18. COVID-19 Hospitalizations in Fulton County Daily (Averaged over 7 days)**



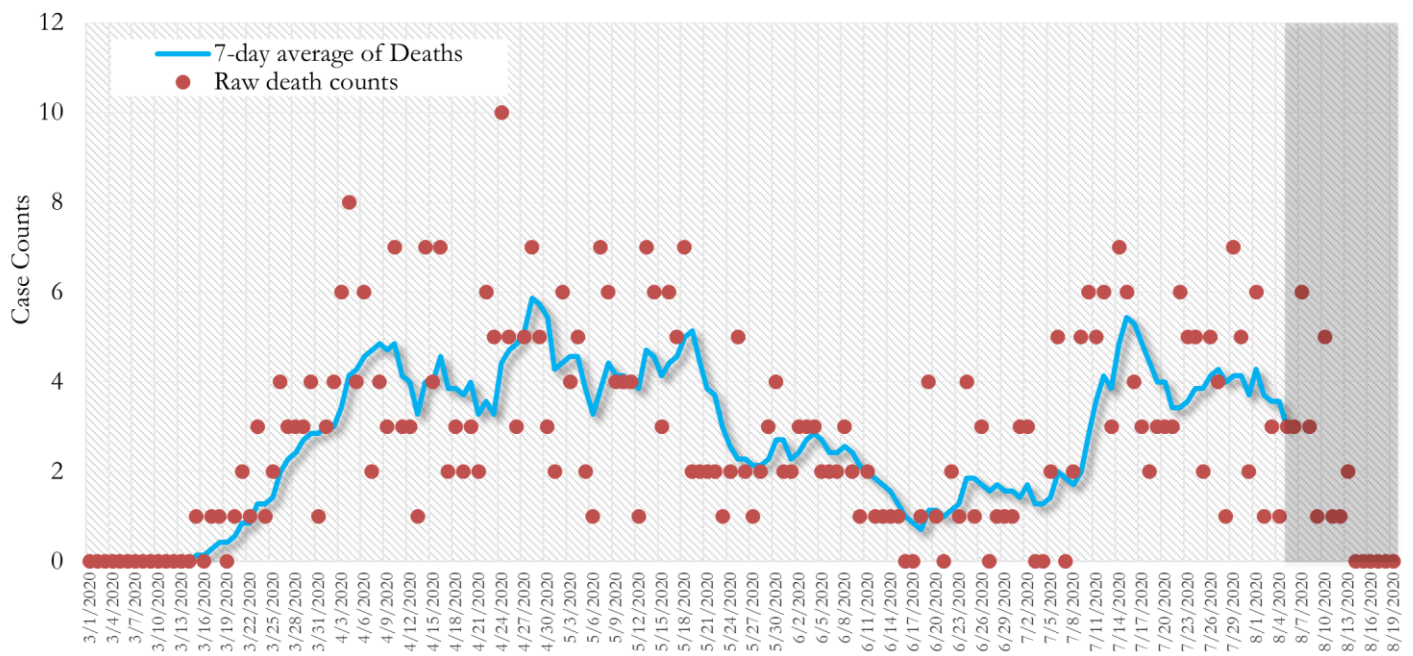
\*Reported date of hospital admission used. Graph above reflects the trend in COVID-19 hospitalizations. Due to the high volume of new cases being added daily, there have been delays in reporting hospitalization data. Thus, the trend is likely to change as more hospitalization data is reported in the state surveillance database.

**Fig. 19. COVID-19 Hospitalizations in Georgia State Daily (Averaged over 7 days)**



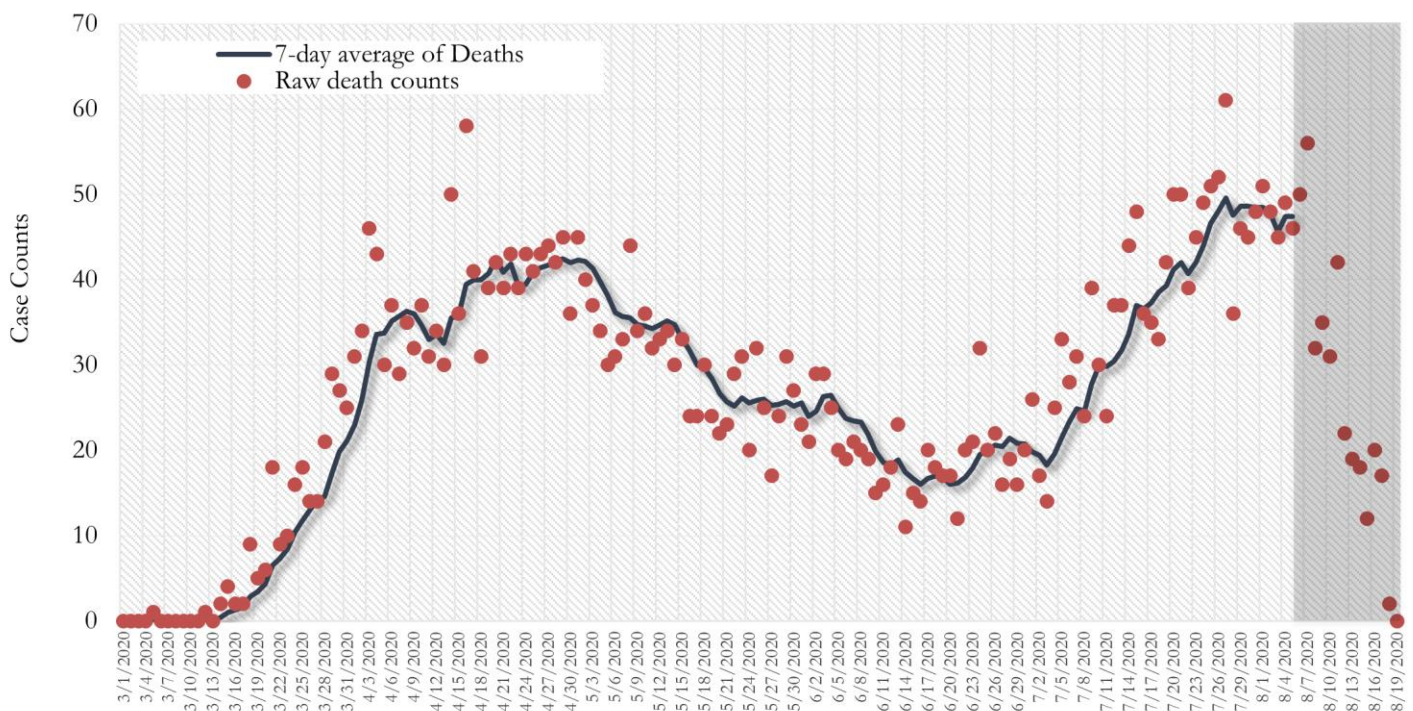
\*Reported date of hospital admission used. Graph above reflects the trend in COVID-19 hospitalizations. Due to the high volume of new cases being added daily, there have been delays in reporting hospitalization data. Thus, the trend is likely to change as more hospitalization data is reported in the state surveillance database.

**Fig. 20. COVID-19 Deaths in Fulton County Daily (Averaged over 7days)**



\* Reported date of death used. Graph above reflects the trend in deaths attributed to COVID-19. The trend is likely to change as more data on deaths among persons with COVID-19 is reported in the state surveillance database.

**Fig. 21. COVID-19 Deaths in Georgia State Daily (Averaged over 7 days)**

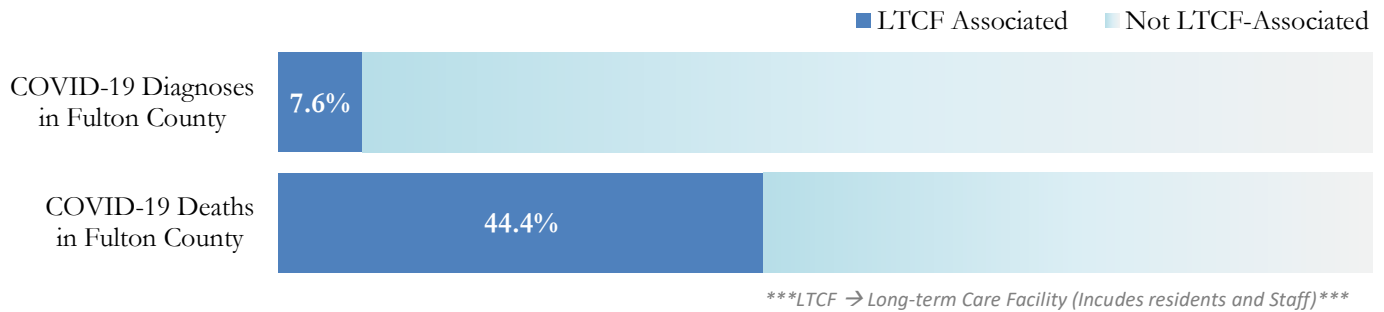


\* Reported date of death used. Graph above reflects the trend in deaths attributed to COVID-19. The trend is likely to change as more data on deaths among persons with COVID-19 is reported in the state surveillance database.

## COVID-19 IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES IN FULTON COUNTY

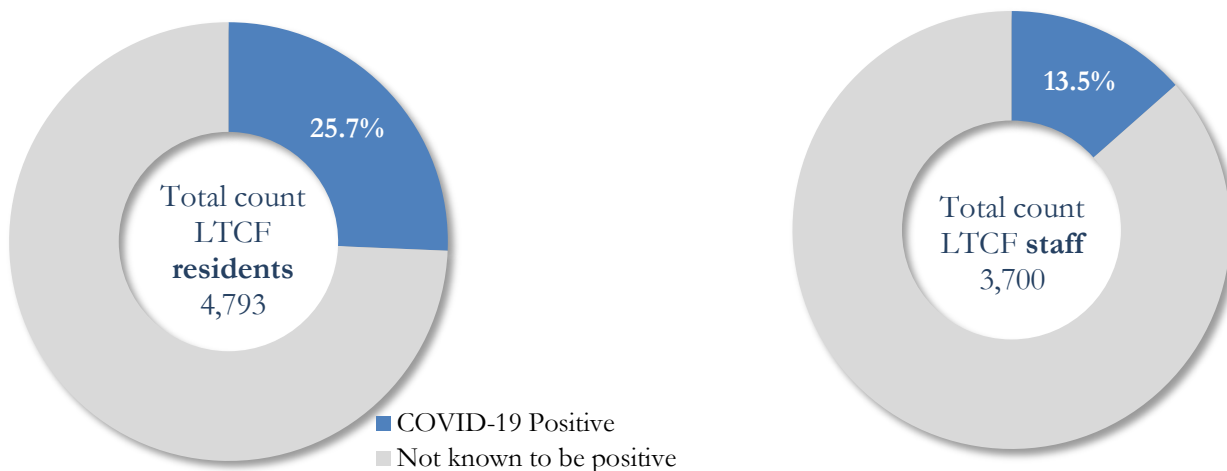
Older persons (aged 65 years and older) and persons who live in nursing homes or other long-term care facilities seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19. Extra precautions are recommended for individuals within this risk groups – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC 2020) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

Fig. 22. COVID-19 Diagnoses and Deaths in Fulton County Associated with Long-Term Care Facilities



## COVID-19 POSITIVITY:

Fig. 23. COVID-19 Positivity at 59 reporting Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) in Fulton County



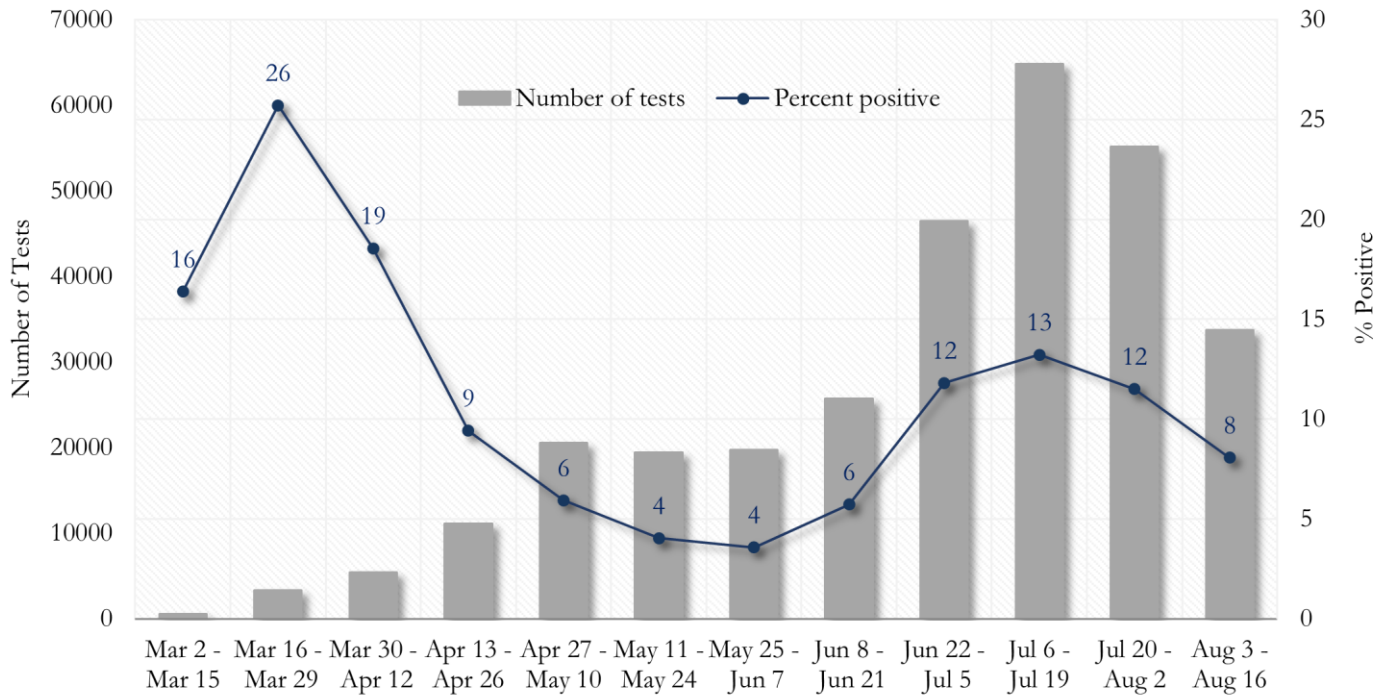
COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths among 59 reporting Long-Term Care Facilities in Fulton County

|                                              | LTCF Residents (n=4,793)        |                                |                                | LTCF Staff (n=3,700)           |                              |                                 |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                              | Cases                           | Hospitalizations               | Deaths                         | Cases                          | Hospitalizations             | Deaths                          |
| <b>Average</b> (count per fac.) <sup>1</sup> | 21                              | 5                              | 4                              | 8                              | 1                            | <0.1                            |
| <b>Median</b> (count per fac.) <sup>1</sup>  | 8                               | 2                              | 0                              | 4                              | 0                            | 0                               |
| <b>Lowest counts</b>                         | 1                               | 0                              | 0                              | 0                              | 0                            | 0                               |
| <b>Highest counts</b>                        | 136                             | 48                             | 29                             | 62                             | 8                            | 1                               |
| <b>Total Count</b>                           | <b>1230 (25.7%)<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>288 (23.5%)<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>210 (17.1%)<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>499 (13.5%)<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>30 (6.0%)<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>3 (&lt;1.0%)<sup>b</sup></b> |

<sup>a</sup> Percentage shown reflects proportion of total residents/staff tested who were positive (i.e. COVID-19 Positivity). | <sup>b</sup> Percentages shown are proportions of persons residents/staff diagnosed with COVID-19 who were hospitalized or died after diagnoses.

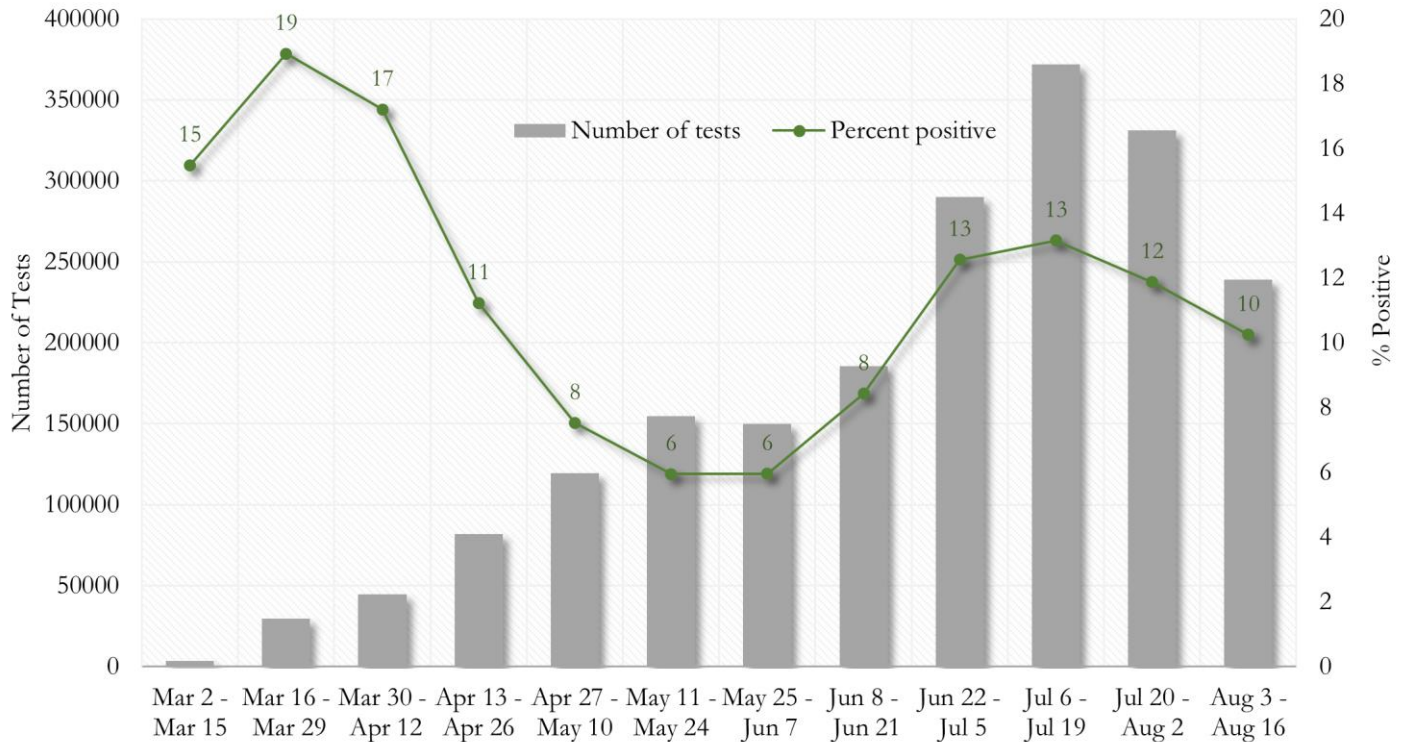
## COVID-19 TESTING AND POSITIVITY IN FULTON COUNTY

**Fig. 24. Trends in Positive COVID-19 Tests in Fulton County by 14-day Periods**



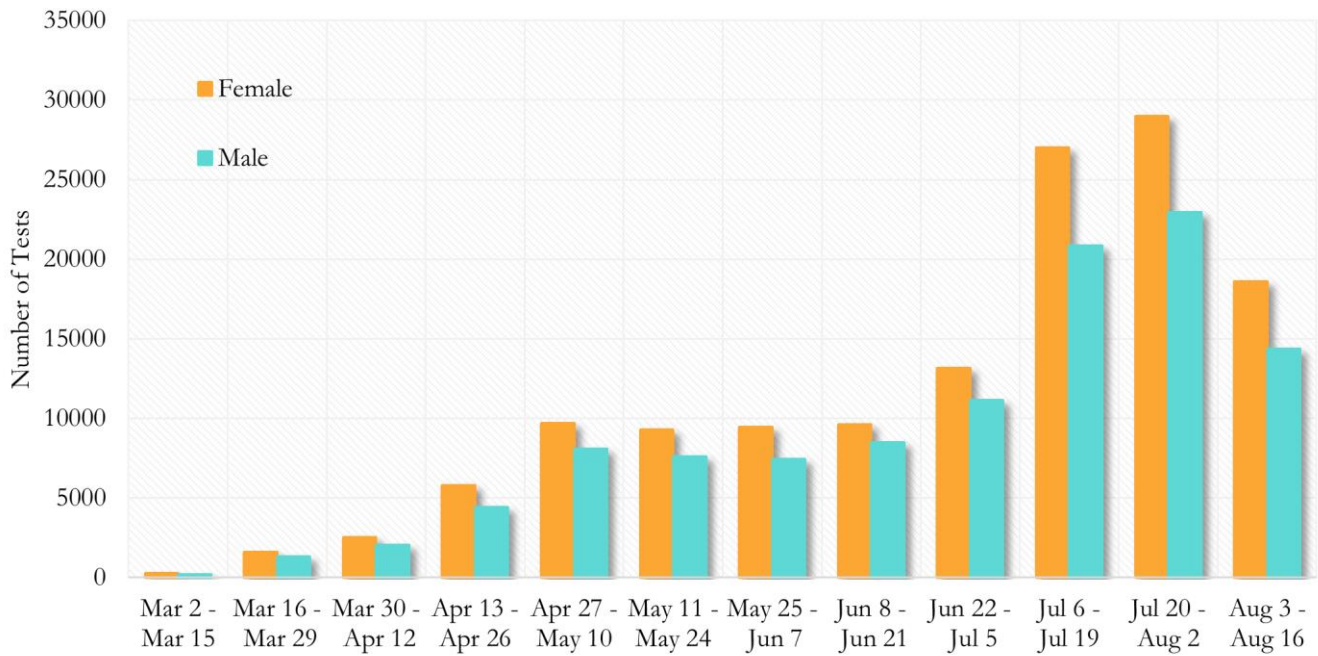
\*Data on Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests only included.

**Fig. 25. Trends in Positive COVID-19 Tests in Georgia by 14-day Periods**



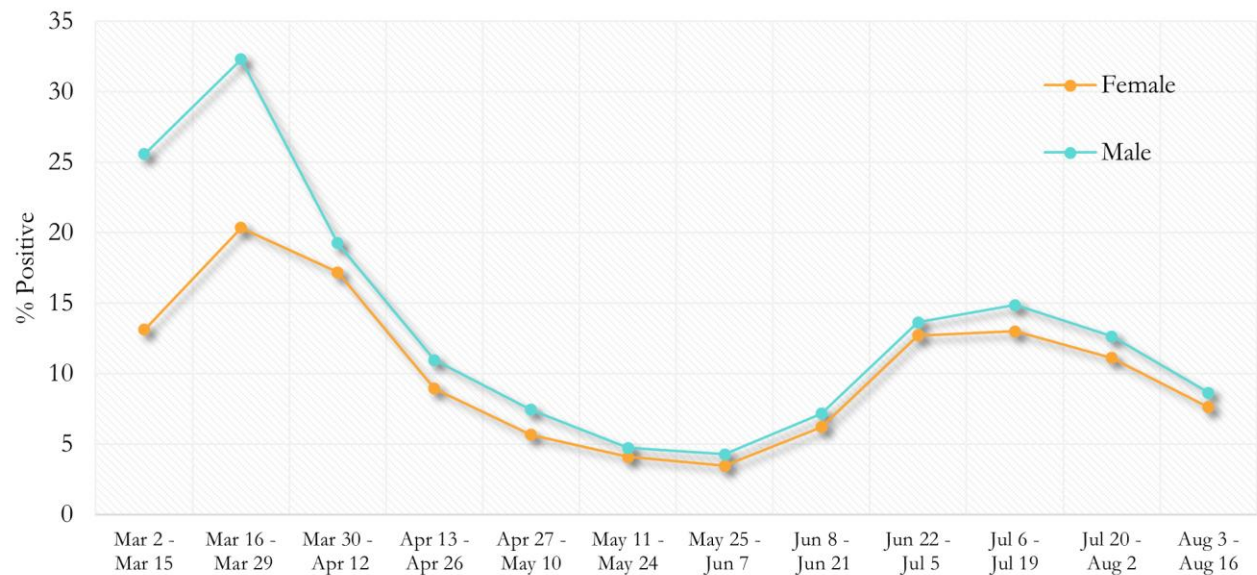
\*Data on Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests only included.

**Fig. 26. COVID-19 Tests by Gender in Fulton County by 14-day Periods**



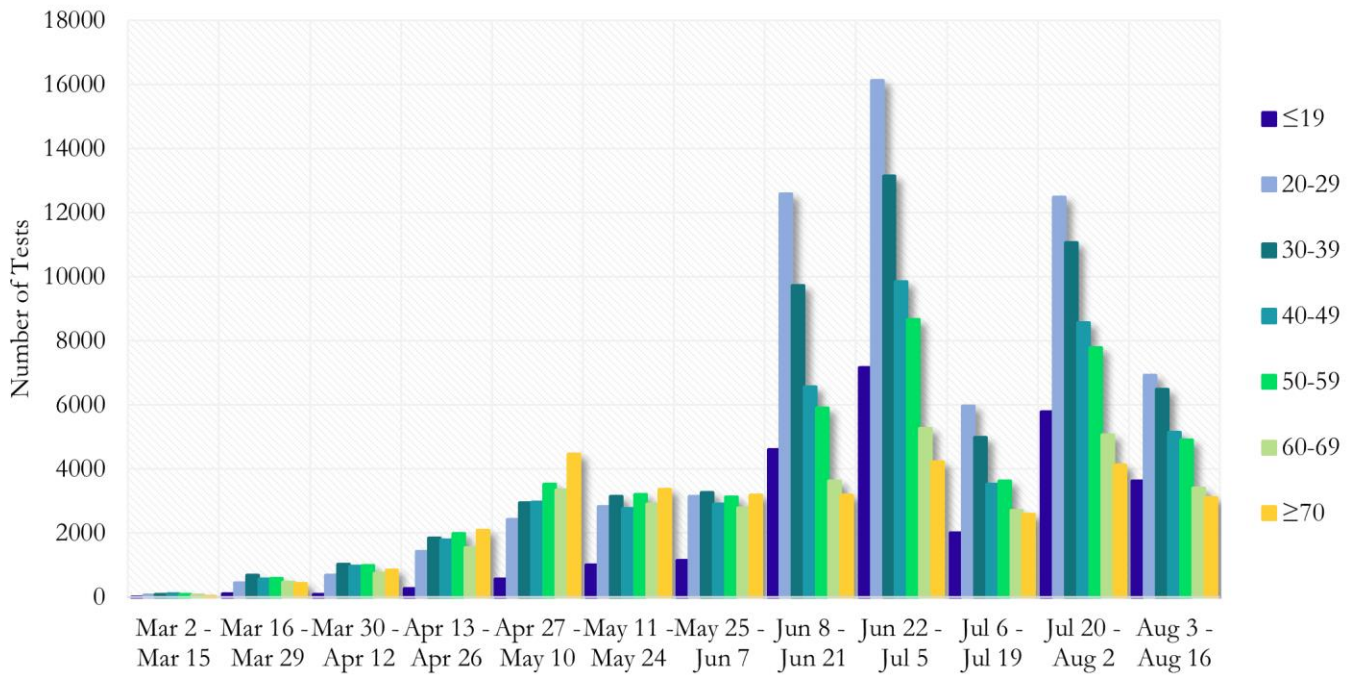
\*Data on Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests only included.

**Fig. 27. Percent Positive COVID-19 Tests by Gender in Fulton County by 14-day Periods**



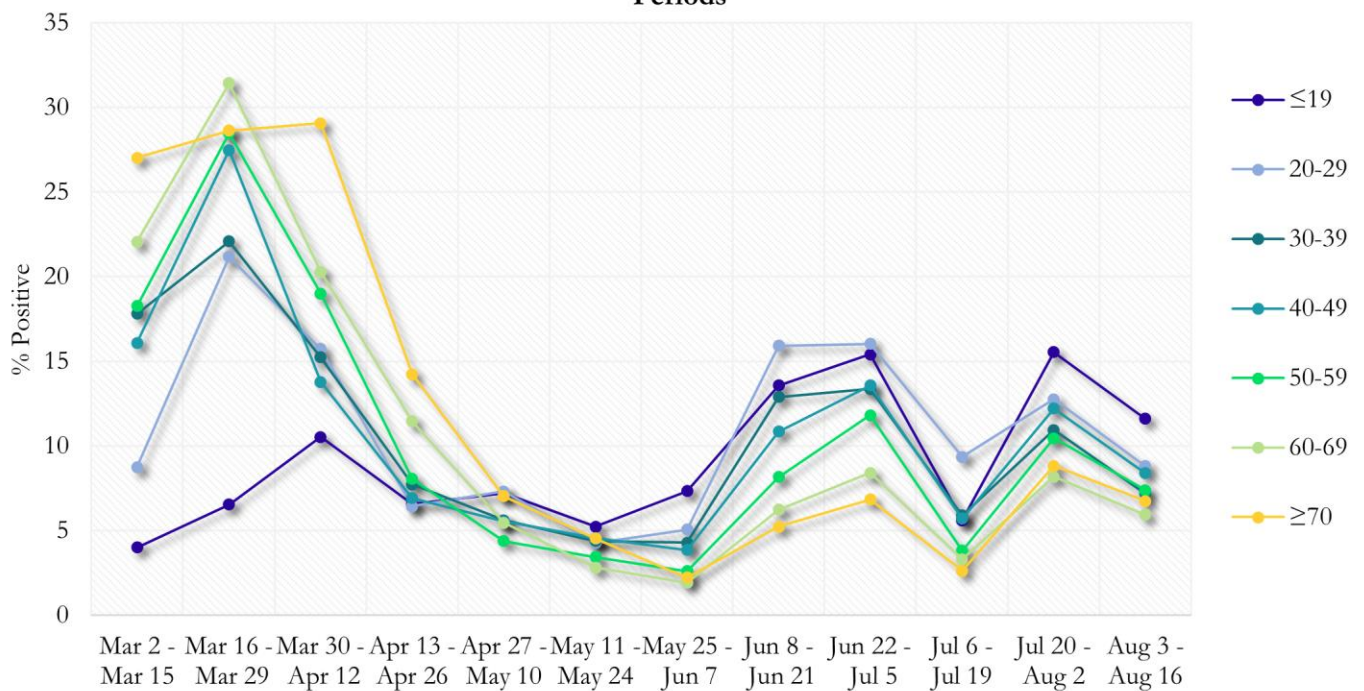
\*Data on Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests only included.

**Fig. 28. COVID-19 Tests by Age in Fulton County by 14-day Periods**



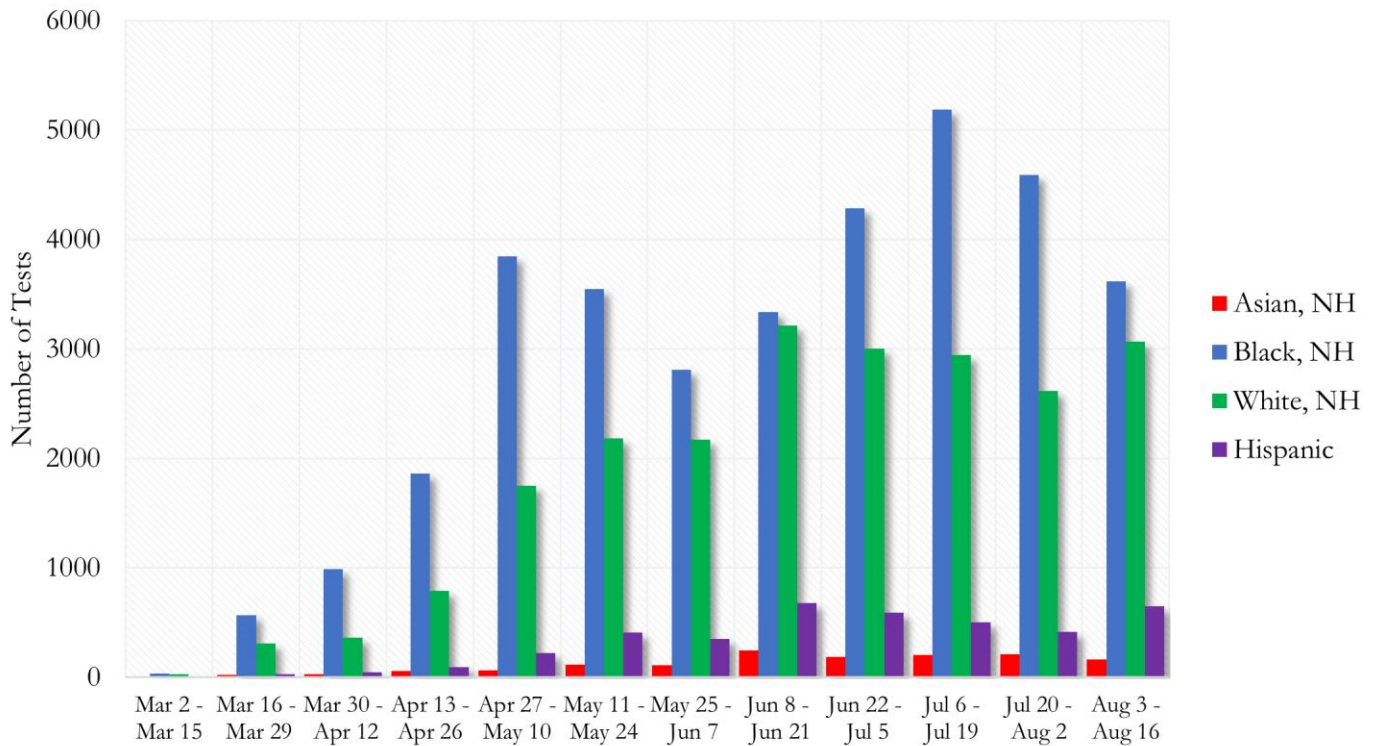
\*Data on Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests only included.

**Fig. 29. Percent Positive COVID-19 Tests by Age Group in Fulton County by 14-day Periods**



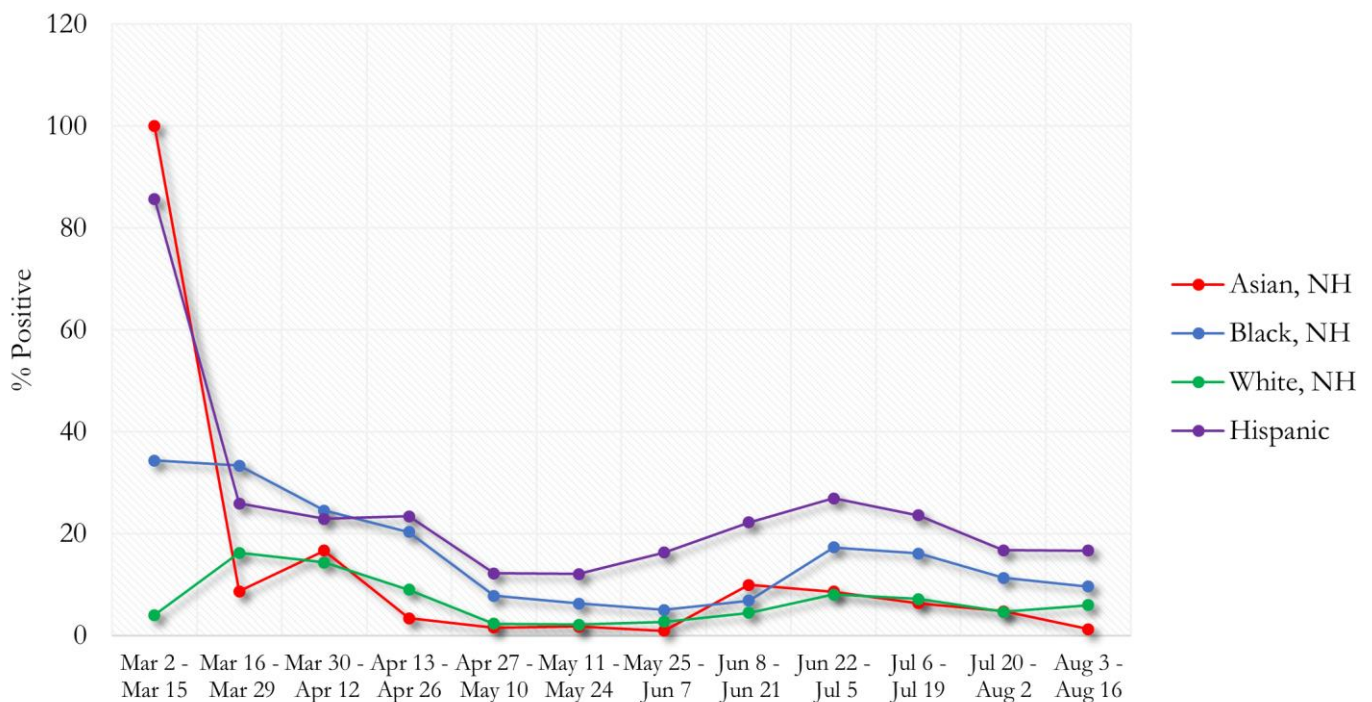
\*Data on Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests only included.

**Fig. 30. COVID-19 Tests by Race and Ethnicity in Fulton County by 14-day Periods**



\*Data on Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests only included.

**Fig. 31. Percent Positive COVID-19 Tests by Race and Ethnicity in Fulton County by 14-day Periods**



\*Data on Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests only included.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Mask ordinance  
**Date:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 3:32:52 PM

---

Please pass the mask ordinance as soon as possible. My wife has compromised lungs and we are afraid to go many places except the ark.

Thanks, Richard McHugh

Please note my email address: [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Mask Ordinance on Monday's Agenda  
**Date:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 2:53:31 PM

---

Hello Alpharetta City Council and Mayor Gilvin,

I have emailed a few times about a masks here in Alpharetta. Since that time, Kemp has enacted an order which allows local mask ordinances. I see this is on the agenda for Monday. I plan to dial in remotely and am hoping each of you vote for this. It's the simplest action we can take as a community to get cases down, which is the requirement for a safe return to school. I also believe that this is an enabler of freedom in many ways.

A "yes" decision may face backlash from the community and and a number of you emailed me you don't support something like this. However, I hope you see the wisdom in this ordinance and step up as leaders.

Thanks!  
Brigid Weisbecker

Sent from my iPhone-please excuse brevity and typos

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Mask Ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:23:33 PM

---

I understand that the city council will be voting on a mandatory mask ordinance tonight. I just want to let you know that I am completely against making the wearing of masks mandatory. This should be a personal choice and not something dictated by local government. I realize I am just one person and one vote, but if this is passed, you will not get my one vote during the next election cycle.

Regards....blair

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gilvin, Jim](#)  
**Subject:** Masks  
**Date:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:07:35 PM

---

Mr. Gilvin,

I see the City Council will be meeting to discuss requiring masks in Alpharetta. I encourage you all to vote yes.

I am a senior citizen, and have been told to sequester ever since the pandemic blew up. Each time the governor declines to order masking he extends the sequester for seniors. Frankly, I am tired of paying the price for cowardice.

Please vote to require masks for Alpharettans. If everyone wears masks and distances and washes hands for six to eight weeks we will be able to send kids to school, attend football games, and partake of many of the activities we miss.

Please be brave, stand up for seniors and mandate masks. And require fines for people whose ego is larger than their brain.

Thank you for your time.

Karen Quinn

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gilvin, Jim](#)  
**Subject:** masks  
**Date:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 11:21:21 AM

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Jim,

I hope that you and your family are doing well in the midst of all this Covid19 mess.

I also hope that City Council will enact a mandatory mask ordinance for Alpharetta for at least one, if not two months. While numbers of cases are trending down, they are still much higher than what they were during the stay at home period back in March and April. The only currently available way to limit infections of the virus is to wear masks and socially distance. There are too many people who frequent the shopping and restaurant areas who cannot differentiate between their political loyalty and the reality of a serious public health problem. So, please consider this at the next council meeting.

Thank you for all you do for Alpharetta

Thomas A Cunningham, DDS  
11775 Pointe Place, Suite 102  
Roswell, GA 30076  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Masks Mandate  
**Date:** Friday, August 21, 2020 10:18:32 PM

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Do not make masks mandatory. Masks do not protect people and they are keeping people from shopping and patronizing businesses. Do not join in on the foolish mainstream ideology that is only ruining the economy and doing nothing for anyone. NO MANDATORY MASKS. People should be free to decide for themselves, this is America, not China.

Cathy Smith

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Masks  
**Date:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 10:21:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [image0.png](#)

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Good morning,

I know implementing a mask ordinance is a popular thing to do politically, but the data does not support it's effectiveness and that is why many first world countries have very limited, (If at all) mandatory mask wear.

Apparently even as cases drop, flattening the curve is no longer the goal?

If you look at examples from around the world, even those with the strongest of mask policies have NOT eradicated the virus and are the ones that are returning to lockdowns. Have you checked out Hawaii? Cases increasing in Spain? Increasing in Korea even with masks and contact tracing? California has a a statewide mandate since June 18. Check out their chart.

Yet, our "control group" Sweden is down to 26 people in ICU in the whole country and almost back to normal. The odds of them having a second wave of any significance is nearly nil.

Check out the data. When a country or state with similar populations gets to around 25,000/million cases, the cases, hospitalizations (lagging indicator) all drop. Masks or no masks. Locations with similar lockdown restrictions spend about 28 days at the peak. After 3 weeks, cases drop on average around 30%. After 6 weeks, about 60%.

Hospitalizations are a better indicator due to the testing inconsistencies, but they follow the exact same pattern. As an example, Georgia is about 2 weeks from the top and down about 20%. If you calculate from the high mark, it is even a larger percentage.

I am sure in a lab that the mask wear appears to be a great idea. But what about the real world? If it is as effective as some would believe, not only would cases in California have dropped like a rock, Hawaii would be done with it and the countries that don't have the mandate would be increasing exponentially would they not?

If this passes, the question becomes "when do we ever get to take them off" and how did you arrive at that number? Look at New Zealand or Australia. They are still locking down. They are either holding out for a vaccine or delaying the inevitable. Is that the future we want? Or do we want to get on with our lives as quickly as possible?

I can provide as much objective data to support my case as you would like, but it is all here. <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/us/>



Brian Craig  
Alpharetta 30004  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gilvin, Jim](#)  
**Subject:** NO MANDATORY MASK ORDINANCE  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:01:33 PM

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I do not support a mandatory mask ordinance and would like my mayor to vote accordingly.

Sincerely,  
Denise Schodowski  
2040 Lake Shore Landing  
30005

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** No mask mandate  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:16:44 AM

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Dear Alpharetta,

There is absolutely no need to create a mask mandate. Any government that does so is infringing on the freedoms of its citizens. This will be noted at the ballot box.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Rennolds

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gilvin, Jim](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Opposing the Emergency Mask Mandate  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:31:15 PM

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Hi Jimmy,

After sharing a few thoughts with you on this topic last week, I've refined those thoughts in my notes below over the weekend. I'm trying to send them to all members of the City Council today to encourage them to not impose a mask mandate in our city.

Thanks,

Brad Sturgeon  
780 Sheridan Ridge Court  
Alpharetta 30022  
[REDACTED]

- The City Council is discussing an emergency Ordinance to mandate the wearing of face masks in certain public facilities and spaces, supposedly on a "limited basis".
- This discussion has apparently included the proposal to impose a mask mandate, with similarities to and consistent with the governor's recent Executive Order.
- But does Gov. Kemp's Order mandate the wearing of masks inside of state facilities?
- And, if on a "limited basis" includes businesses not being required to impose the mandate on their customers, is that truly a unique limitation by the city? Or is it just a redundant action of already established statewide policy?
- Without a statewide mask mandate in effect now or on the horizon, isn't this local ordinance at best an example of a "too little, too late" effort, mainly to show the public that the Council is doing something? And why is an emergency act needed at this time?
- As of yesterday, the state reports over a one-third decline in the seven-day average of confirmed cases, since the case-average peaked over 30 days ago on July 24.
- In fact, could this mandate have a deleterious impact on locally-owned businesses in the woefully-struggling hospitality and small business sectors? For instance, if one is not interested in hassling with wearing a mask, why not just socialize in FOCO at Halcyon, just steps away from Alpharetta, for a hassle-free leisure experience?
- For 100 years, our society has known that the imposition of legally-enforced

sweeping acts of prohibition, without public consensus, have failed in the United States. The failure of the 18th Amendment to the US Constitution is a classic case of how the consent of the people is essential for acceptance of the imposition of prohibitions by law.

- In this case of using the law to force the people to wear masks, given the lack of consensus in our community and throughout the nation (not to mention our city Council) no one sincerely can claim there is anything near a consensus on this issue.
- With stress throughout America at very high levels, why would any wise political body desire to increase the shared tension in our community?
- One outcome will certainly be specific acts of civil disobedience to what many consider both an ill-advised and even an illegitimate act by our local officials over the people. How can this be good leadership? These acts may be small passive-aggressive acts of non-compliance but still you are asking for rebellion by criminalizing non-compliance with what should remain as public health guidance.
- So in a time when many of your constituents are already in high-stress mode, why impose a highly-divisive action, which breeds civil discontent and further erodes institutional trust of our government and its leaders?
- What's the effective point anyway, other than to create talking-points to say: "we did something." After five months of coping with this ordeal it seems my family, friends and neighbors living here in Alpharetta have learned what to do to stay safe and keep others safe and also to respect everyone's personal spaces, too.
- I choose to believe the city has adequate legal measures already in place to minimize the risks to the public. We do not need a mask mandate, as fashionable as it may be to do right now, to legislate in a futile effort to control these behavioral exceptions.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Please pass the ordinance requiring use of masks in certain public spaces  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:59:12 AM

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Hi,

Tonight, please pass the ordinance requiring the use of masks in certain public spaces. This ordinance will help protect Alpharetta citizens and flatten the covid curve. I've let my network of friends and neighbors know about this ordinance and the vast majority support the ordinance and will contact you with their support as well.

Michael Weisbecker  
Resident of Alpharetta since 2012

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Gilvin, Jim](#); [Mitchell, Donald](#); [Burnett, Ben](#); [Richard, Karen](#); [Hipes, John](#); [Binder, Jason](#); [Merkel, Dan](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Mask Ordinance: Lack of transparency, haste to legislate  
**Date:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 7:52:39 PM

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Mayor Gilvin, Councilman Mitchell, Councilman Burnett, Councilwoman Richard, Councilman Hipes, Councilman Binder, and Councilman Merkel,

I am writing you in regard to the upcoming vote on Monday, August 24 considering an emergency ordinance “requiring the use of masks in certain public places” as specified in the City of Alpharetta’s newsletter and [publicly available website information](#). I am asking that you make the text of the proposed ordinance available to the public at least a week in advance of a vote to allow for public review and discussion. Therefore, I ask that you defer Monday’s vote on this legislation.

Though I am not opposed to masks in certain situations of close, sustained physical proximity in present circumstances, I am generally distrustful of how governments are balancing individual liberties and specifically the right to breathe freely (i.e. unimpeded by a mask) in public against the purported risks posed by the pandemic. There continues to be an ongoing rush to see who can pass the most restrictive rules and/or capitulation to media pressure to implement copycat legislation based on what has been adopted in another jurisdiction.

Admittedly, my most serious concerns about the proposed ordinance could be unfounded. However, without the text of the proposed ordinance, citizens have no way of knowing. The citizenry deserves more transparency in this particular instance. I reviewed the [ordinance passed by the City of Dunwoody](#). On the whole, I do not find it objectionable.

However, lacking Alpharetta’s proposed implementation beyond the vague description in the Council agenda, my concerns are as follows:

- As stated previously, I do not understand why this must be done as an emergency ordinance with the text of said ordinance unavailable for review by the citizenry well beforehand. With reported coronavirus cases moderating and indeed declining in Alpharetta (down over 40% in last 14 days per [Fulton County’s 8/19 epidemiology report](#)), I question the rushed manner in which this is being handled.
- I am concerned about the implementation of mask requirements in outdoor areas (e.g. parks) where social distancing is generally possible, but more restrictive rules are imposed in an attempt to eliminate all risk or address the actions of an incorrigible minority of careless individuals. It is hot enough outdoors in Georgia without wearing a mask.
- I worry that elected officials are unduly influenced by a relatively small, vocal group of neurotic individuals who unfortunately may never feel “safe” in public again. Mesmerized and amplified by the scaremongering media, these individuals demand the criminalization of normally lawful human behavior (i.e. breathing in public without a mask). Though I pity these people, their demands are unreasonable.
- Legislation is one thing, enforcement is another. In a time when certain people question the relevance of law enforcement, the Alpharetta Police are too good and well-respected to turn

them into a nitpicky mask patrol carrying around a couple of yardsticks.

- We simply do not need more rules for the sake of rules or for the sake of appearances. How will the proposed ordinance make our community measurably safer? Every merchant that I go to requires/encourages a face covering, so what changes? Never in my lifetime have the government (generally speaking, not the City Council in particular) and the unaccountable, unrealistic public health apparatus so intruded into the personal and economic lives of citizens.

I commend and appreciate your efforts and those of city employees to resume inasmuch as possible normal operations of our city activities, services, and amenities. I ask you to give the citizenry a chance to understand and provide feedback on this ordinance before voting to impose it upon them.

Very truly yours,  
Brian E. Crenshaw

1425 Shade Tree Way  
Alpharetta, GA 30009



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Binder, Jason](#)  
**Cc:** [Mitchell, Donald](#); [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Please be leaders, and help stop the spread of COVID - implement a facemask mandate!  
**Date:** Saturday, August 8, 2020 12:56:58 PM

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Mr. Binder & City Council members,

The City of Alpharetta is at 234 cases per 100k residents in the past 14 days, so the numbers continue to get worse.

The Fulton County Commission meeting from August 5th had some interesting data (link to their slides is below) on page 9 and 17.

- Page 9 shows that there are projected to be 500 more deaths in Fulton County by November 1 without mask mandates vs if we have a mask mandate. Given that Alpharetta has ~3% of the county's cases, it is reasonable to project that approx 15 of those additional deaths will be in Alpharetta.
- Page 17 shows the nationwide economic impact of a mask mandate vs no mandate. This would apply at the local level here in Alpharetta as well. We can have both: reduction in COVID-related deaths, and spurring economic activity ***if we have a mask mandate.***
- I understand that this issue has become political. But it is not a political issue - it is a health and safety issue. Please let the data and science guide our actions on this issue.
- I also understand that Governor Kemp thinks he has the authority to prevent local governments from passing mask ordinances. But he has recently backed off of the mask portion of his lawsuit against Atlanta Mayor Lance-Bottoms, indicating that he may not have the legal authority in this area that he thought he did. I understand that a local mandate could potentially be contrary to a state ordinance, but would state troopers really cite someone for wearing a mask in Alpharetta?

[https://mcusercontent.com/393cf3bb77b3460372e0f2fc2/files/7bbfffeb-4e9e-47aa-bc17-2efeb324dbfa/FC\\_COVID\\_19\\_Response\\_Update\\_8\\_5\\_20\\_BOC\\_meeting\\_reformatted.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/393cf3bb77b3460372e0f2fc2/files/7bbfffeb-4e9e-47aa-bc17-2efeb324dbfa/FC_COVID_19_Response_Update_8_5_20_BOC_meeting_reformatted.pdf)

Thank you for your consideration,  
Sean McHugh  
Alpharetta Resident since 1984  
Registered voter since 1991

On Mon, Jul 27, 2020 at 10:27 PM Binder, Jason <[jbinder@alpharetta.ga.us](mailto:jbinder@alpharetta.ga.us)> wrote:  
Thanks. Monday's reported number has moved to 228 per 100,000. Still climbing in the wrong direction and virtual school starts in three weeks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 27, 2020, at 7:48 PM, Sean McHugh <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Mr. Binder,

Thank you for your thoughtful data-based response.

Hopefully, the City Council will agree with you on joining the Georgia Municipal Association's push for some local control on this issue.

Sean McHugh

On Sunday, July 26, 2020, Binder, Jason <[jbinder@alpharetta.ga.us](mailto:jbinder@alpharetta.ga.us)> wrote:  
Mr. McHugh,

I am sorry for this delayed response. It was my hope that policy would have improved As the numbers became more dire. The facts are that at an infection rate of 196 cases per 100k, we are almost double what is considered to be substantial level of spread.

I'm in favor of implementing the recommendations from the White House Covid task force for Georgia. Namely this would be for the state to mandate face masks and the ability for cities to implement recommended policies depending on our situation in regards to the spread rate.

The State's failure to implement the recommended policies to help mitigate the spread rate is reprehensible. Local officials putting their hands in the air and saying that there is nothing that we can do is equally as bad. We should lend our voice with other local leaders around the state and push for local control to implement community mitigation interventions.

This Council has been a strong advocate for local control over the state when it came to things like 5g antennas and design standards. My hope is that Alpharetta would join the Georgia Municipal Association and other cities to push for local control of the public health and safety of our residents. If the Governor won't implement the federal recommendations at the state level, than we should have the ability to implement them at the city level.

Fulton County Schools is correctly applying federal policy recommendations and sadly will start their school year virtually. Most recently the CDC reported that the best place for our kids to be is at our schools but it is not recommended in areas with a substantial spread rate. It is probably not realistic for kids to return to school any time soon with a current infection rate of 196 per 100,000 and no mitigation intervention on the horizon.

Sincerely,

Jason Binder

<image0.jpeg>

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 25, 2020, at 11:34 AM, Sean McHugh

> wrote:

It has been over 2 weeks, and Mr. Mitchell is still the only council member or mayor that has responded to my email. I'd like to hear the rest of Council's attitude on the topic of facemasks.

The 14-day infection rate per 100k residents in Alpharetta when I wrote my original email on July 10 was 168 (per the July 9 Fulton County Epidemiology report); it is now 179 as of the 7/22 report. The City of Alpharetta is going in the wrong direction.

I do appreciate the City of Alpharetta Tweets related to mask wearing, and social distancing. That can help the fight, but I was very disappointed to see the picture of Mayor Gilvin, standing next to representatives of a Senior Center without a facemask on the front page of the North Fulton Herald on July 16. As is well publicized, seniors are our most at risk population. This sets a very poor example in how to win this fight against COVID-19, Mr. Mayor.

It was bad enough that my son missed out on all the great aspects of the end of his Senior year in high school. But I don't fault our leaders for that. We didn't know enough about COVID in April to really fight back. But we do now, and our leaders are not doing it. With schools moving to online instruction and many student activities now being cancelled (my daughter will not be able to participate in Marching Band this Fall), it is now apparent to me that our leaders have failed our children. And that is just sad. We as a society can't do better than that?

The anti-mask argument is clearly not based on science, as the science community is nearly unanimous on the positive impact that masks can have on transmission.

If the City of Alpharetta is not willing to join other courageous city and county governments across Georgia in standing up to our mis-guided Governor, the least you can do is promote mask wearing by modeling the right behavior when in public.

Sean McHugh  
City of Alpharetta Resident since 1984

On Sat, Jul 11, 2020 at 11:57 AM Sean McHugh

<[REDACTED]> wrote:

Mr. Mitchell,

While I strongly disagree with you and the data you cite, thank you for taking the time to reply. I look forward to a reply from the mayor and other council members.

I'm not going to get into an argument with you (that tends to be counter-productive, and we have too much of that already), but I'm begging you to:

1. take an honest look at the data for the state of Georgia, Fulton County, and our Alpharetta zip codes. The data that I can find looks terrible.
2. look at the science & use it to do something to stop these trends while minimal measures such as facemasks can still be an effective tool, rather than resorting to more drastic measures such as economic shutdown later.

I believe this is the most important issue of our generation. Voters will remember how our leaders handled it.

Sincerely,

Sean McHugh, 36 year resident of Alpharetta.

On Thu, Jul 9, 2020 at 10:29 PM Mitchell, Donald

<[dmitchell@alpharetta.ga.us](mailto:dmitchell@alpharetta.ga.us)> wrote:

Thanks Mr McHugh, I appreciate your writing in. Our hospitals nor morgues are full or even close to capacity. We see the local data on a consistent basis. We literally have no mechanism to enforce the wearing of face mask. The mayors of both Atlanta and Savannah also have no way of enforcing their own ordinances. Thanks for your email and I hope you and your family remain safe and take the needed precautions you see most helpful. Thanks Donald

On Jul 9, 2020, at 5:01 PM, Sean McHugh

<[REDACTED]> wrote:

Mr. Mayor and City Council Members,

As the days go by, and I see more and more people being diagnosed with COVID, filling up our hospitals, and filling up our morgues, I can't sit quietly any longer.

I'm asking you as the elected officials that we have put in office to do something, rather than sit idly by as you have been. For too long, the debate was Health and Safety **VS** the economy. This was the wrong discussion. It should have been more constructive on **HOW** we can open the economy **SAFELY!**

The science community has been pretty clear, although maybe not loud enough. Facemasks can significantly reduce the spread of COVID. I wear one every time I go out of the house, not because it will protect me, but because it will protect **YOU** if I unknowingly have it. This is quite possible, as nearly 30% of all COVID cases are asymptomatic ( see page 6 of today's Fulton County Epidemiology Report <https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/-/media/COVID-19/Epidemiology-reports/Epidemiology-Report---COVID-19-by-City-and-ZIP---070820.ashx>)

I hear the arguments about "personal freedom". But I don't buy them.

- Is wearing a mask really that much to ask if it means saving lives?
- Are we really that selfish? I would hope not, but as I go around in Alpharetta, attempting to support our local businesses, unfortunately, I see a lot of selfish people.
- Should we also have the freedom to have 6 martinis, then get in a car and drive down Main Street on a Friday evening?
- Should I have the freedom to assault others & cause them harm?
- Should I have the freedom to drive 85 MPH down Main Street at 6pm on a Thursday night?
- I think we can agree that I should not have the freedom to do these things.
- Then why is it too much to require people to wear masks if it means saving lives?

We are just a few weeks away from sending our children back to school, and I am a worried parent. Please do the responsible thing, and implement a facemask mandate in the city of Alpharetta.

Sincerely,

Sean McHugh, Alpharetta Resident since 1984

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Request to NOT enforce facemask mandate for the city of Alpharetta  
**Date:** Friday, August 21, 2020 10:47:50 PM

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Dear Mayor & City Council Members of Alpharetta,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing this letter with a sincere request to NOT mandate wearing of facemasks for the city of Alpharetta. I hope to attend the city council meeting as well.

When Covid first hit our country back in Q1, we were told about the need to "flatten the curve," to not overwhelm our hospitals- hence the requirement for shelter-in-place. As law-abiding citizens, we heeded the advice and stayed home as the effects of the virus were not fully known then. We sure did flatten that curve and as a result many hospitals were so empty they had to lay off employees! Since the lifting of that mandate, the number of covid "cases" have gone up, which at the outset may seem alarming, but not if you carefully look at the data. As our President has stated and several other health officials, the US has significantly increased the number of testings since March/April - significantly higher than any other country. It seems very obvious that one can certainly expect the Covid cases to go up with an increase in testing. However, increased Covid cases doesn't necessarily warrant an increase in fatality rate. The most recent numbers of recovery rate of SYMPTOMATIC people is upwards of 97%!

**As regards the mandatory Face mask,** this is not the right thing to do. My wife is a registered nurse and she has worked in a cardiac step-down unit in the past and understands the appropriate usage of masks. Her medical books and hands-on training suggest that the cloth masks that most people are wearing for protection from Covid are simply of NO USE as most virus particles (including the Coronavirus) are very tiny and can easily pass through a cloth mask, leaving the users defenseless. An N-95 mask that is snugly fit could help protect, but again not warranted. In addition, people are more inclined to touch their faces and noses to adjust their masks frequently, which defeats the purpose of people touching their faces. Even doctors and nurses don't wear masks in the NeoNatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) while working with premature infants, who are highly susceptible to bacteria and viruses. The only protective masks, when used by the medical professionals, were single-use disposable masks, unlike a cloth mask that is used multiple times throughout the day without a thorough cleaning. Further, the prolonged usage of masks reduces the oxygen intake and increases the bacteria deposit that is not dispelled out, which leads to a buildup of CO2 in the bloodstream which could pose a significant threat to one's health. Staying home when feeling ill and proper hand-washing continue to be the best method of preventing illness.

My intent in this letter is not to slander or marginalize anyone, but a sincere request to our officials to not follow suit with the irrational ideology of the mainstream news channels and consider logical fact-based decisions. Most of the law abiding Americans that I know do not agree with all the abuse of power that is going on under the guise of Covid-19. I talk to many people out and about who complain of shortness of breath BECAUSE they have to wear a mask all day for their job even.

We do not quarantine the well, we quarantine the sick. That has been the case UP UNTIL now... why? Because this is not about Covid 19, and it never was.

Sincerely,

Praveen Janjirala, concerned resident of Alpharetta

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Support for passage of the mask ordinance on the 8/24 Agenda  
**Date:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 2:20:02 PM

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Mayor and City Council Members,

I'm pleased to see that Governor Kemp has seen the value of a mask ordinance to protect public health & prevent deaths while maintaining/ improving the economic vibrancy of our local community. With the executive order he signed on August 15, he stopped short of a statewide mandate, but is allowing local governments to mandate masks in public areas, unless a business owner opts out.

While this is short of what I would like to see, it is certainly a step in the right direction, and I will exercise my freedom to not spend my hard-earned money at businesses that do not require masks.

Please pass the ordinance that is on the agenda. Our public health experts agree that it is one of the best things that we can do to stop the pandemic until a vaccine is developed, which in turn will help our local economy.

Sean McHugh  
Alpharetta Resident since 1984

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council and Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** We support mask mandate  
**Date:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 9:36:45 AM

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Mayor and City Council Members

We strongly support the proposed mask mandate. The economy will not recover and life cannot return to normal until the epidemic is under control. Wearing a mask is a simple way to accomplish that goal. Wearing a mask shows concern for your own health and that of your fellow citizens. It is the right thing to do.

Sue and Peter Jacques  
12566 Wexcroft Lane  
Alpharetta