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Friday, February 11, 2022

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Pritzker set to lift indoor mask mandate on February 28

Illinoisans may be able to show their faces in public again, after Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced Wednesday that the statewide mask mandate will be lifted on February 28.

The change comes, in part, because 21.4 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered to Illinois resident, according to a statement from Pritzker's office. Illinois leads the Midwest in the number of people who have received at least one shot, with 75.7 percent receiving their first dose. The state has the most fully vaccinated 17-and-under population.

"We are now seeing the fastest rate of decline in our Covid-19 hospitalization metric since the pandemic began," Pritzker said. "If these trends continue - and we expect them to - then on Monday, February 28, we will lift the indoor mask requirement for the State of Illinois."

Pritzker added that many local jurisdictions, businesses and organizations have their own mask requirements that must be respected.

Going maskless will not be permitted in all situations. For example, federal regulations, currently effective through March 18, mandate masks on all transportation systems, such as airports, planes, trains and buses, including school buses.

Illinois will require masks in healthcare settings, long term care facilities, congregate settings, such as prisons and shelters and daycare centers.

Masks will also be required in K-12 schools unless pending litigation impacts a school, the statement said.

From the Blotter

Delia Guadalupe Tapia, 45, of Hoopeston, was contacted by police on a different matter, when a computer check showed an active Ford County warrant for failure to appear for driving on suspension.

Tapia was taken to the police station where she posted the required bond and was released with a new date in Ford County Court.

At least one Illinois leader was not impressed with Pritzker's announcement. "Throughout the pandemic, Gov. Pritzker has chosen a completely unilateral approach, with little to no transparency on the data he was basing decisions on," said state Sen. Jason Barickman (R-Bloomington). "Today, he once again made a major decision with no input from the legislature, and it's even more clear this time that it was based on politics more than science."

Pritzker, who is seeking reelection in November, and other Democrat governors around the country, are loosening Covid-related restrictions, including California, Delaware, New Jersey and Connecticut, Washington and Rhode Island.

Meanwhile, the White House and Illinois Department of Public Health want Americans to continue guidelines for wearing masks. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control, (CDC) on Wednesday affirmed the importance of continued masking.

So did IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. "While masks will no longer be required in most indoor locations beginning February 28, they are still recommended," she said "Masks offer a layer of protection and for people who have an underlying health condition or who are around those who do, you may choose to continue wearing a mask. Similarly, if you find yourself in a crowded, indoor setting, a mask can still help protect you. We will continue to recommend masks."

CDC guidance concerning masking has changed during the course of Covid. Early on, Americans were encouraged to wear paper and cloth masks, deeming both safe, while leaving available N95 masks for healthcare workers.

More recent guidelines suggest N95 masks and res-

Across the nation, several recent polls show residents are ready to move past pandemic restrictions.

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Thursday: Swiss steak or Popcorn Shrimp Cod and Rib eye steak dinners Friday: Prime Rib and Rib eye steak dinners Saturday:

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7-10 a.m. Sat. 7 a.m.-Noon Sun.

Obituaries

CHERRY - Martha Anne Cherry, 92, of Hoopeston, IL, passed away at 8:25 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022, at Heritage Health Therapy and Senior Living in Hoopeston. She was born November 17, 1929, in Newman, IL, the daughter of Frank and Hester Mae (Waltz) Clark. She married Roy Cherry on December 21, 1947. in Newman. He preceded her in death.

She is survived by four daughters, Beverly (Sam) Minton of Wilkesboro, NC, Nancy Marshall of Scottsdale, AZ, Rose (Kenny) Holycross of West Lebanon, IN, and



Julie (Mark) Newman of Rankin,; one sister, Betty Greene of Sneedville, TN; 13 grandchildren; six stepgrandchildren; 28 greatgrandchildren; six great-great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents; five sisters; five brothers; one grandson; and one greatgrandson.

Martha worked at Country Health Nursing Home in Gifford for several years. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Hoopeston. Her hobbies included sewing, crocheting, quilting, and tending to her plants and flowers. Most of all, Martha enjoyed spending time with her family.

A visitation will be held 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Tuesday Feb. 15, 2022, at Anderson Funeral Home 427 E. Main St. Hoopeston. The funeral service will follow the visitation, beginning at 12 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home, with Pastor Adam Taubert officiating. Burial will follow in Rankin Union Cemetery in Rankin.

Memorial contributions may be made in Martha's name to Heritage Health Therapy and Senior Living 423 N. Dixie Highway, Hoopeston, IL 60942 or the Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter, 8430 W. Bryn Mawr, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60631.

Please visit www.anderson-funeral-home.com to view Martha's eternal tribute page and to send the family con-

Anderson Funeral Home in Hoopeston is handling the arrangements.

KIBLER - Lisa Marie Kibler, 60, of Danville, died at 4:24 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, at home. She will be cremated and no service held. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be left at www.anderson-funeral-home.com.

NORTON - Brian J "B" Norton, 45, of Paxton, formerly of Rossville, died Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. He was cremated. Memorial visitation will be held from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, February 19 at Cox-Knapp Funeral Home, 142 W. Patton St., Paxton. Memorials are suggested to Gift of Hope or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. A benefit for Brian will be held from 2-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, at 103 East Bar & Grill, 103 E. Lincoln St., Buckley. Condolences may be shared at www.coxknapp.com.

STEINER - Betty Jean (Hamrick) Steiner, 95, of Cissna Park, died at 7:01 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022, at home. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Saturday at Cissna Park United Methodist Church, 221, W. Koplin Ave. Burial will follow in Cissna Park Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Cissna Park United Methodist Church Food Pantry, P.O. Box 384, Cissna Park IL 60924, Cissna Park Fire Protection District, P.O. Box 273, Cissna Park, IL 60924, or Iroquois Memorial Hospice, 200 N. Laird Lane, Watseka, IL 60970. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be left at www.anderson-funeral-home.com.



Addiction recovery group

Addiction recovery group for men. 6 p.m. Sundays in Rossville. Call or text 217-304-4211 or 217-260-1361 for details.

Weather

Chance of rain today. High 42. Tonight, moistly cloudy. Low 16. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 23, low 9. Sunday, partly sunny. High 23, low 10.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/ weather/.

Classifieds

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Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial/ Maintenance position. Please apply online at: https:// silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/ view/12406/0

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications will be ongoing; no deadline applies for certified

City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for a full time water department employee. Must have CDL or the ability to get one. Potential for eventual supervisory role with proper training and certification. Applications are available at Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main St., or at www.cityofhoopeston.com.

KSi is looking for qualified candidates for the seasonal position of Production Associate in our Cissna Park facility. This position is primarily responsible for mechanical assembly of conveyors and final units. Potential candidates should possess a beginner level of mechanical skills and have a strong work ethic. Position would be M-F workweeks up to 45 hours per week. Majority of work would be in heated shop for cold winter months. Fill out an application from our website, www.ksiedge.com, send inquiries to hr@ksiedge.com, or call 785-284-0600 ext. 1422. Applications may also be picked up at our location: 454 N State Route 49, Cissna Park, IL 60924.

Teasdale Latin Foods is hiring for a new temporary position. Competitive pay, 5-6 hrs./day, five days a week. Great for retirees, college students or someone laid off looking to work part time. Apply in person or online: https://teasdale-latinfoods.breezv.hr/

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