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**For Immediate Release**

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## Statement from Mayor John W. Byrne

*Note: The following statement is intended to provide facts and information related to COVID-19 in Wake County and the Town of Fuquay-Varina and about the Town of Fuquay-Varina's current stance with regards to masks.*

The Town of Fuquay-Varina is concerned about the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases in our community as the Delta variant has become the predominant strain in North Carolina and the United States. We know that cases are increasing rapidly because the Delta variant is more infectious than earlier strains of COVID-19. The troubling trends the Wake County Health Department has identified include rapid increases in cases, higher positivity rates, increased hospitalization and ICU beds space in our hospitals approaching capacity. This is not where we want to be as a community.

While the Town of Fuquay-Varina is not putting a mask mandate in place at this time, we are encouraging individuals to wear masks when groups of people not from the same household gather indoors. We support businesses requiring a mask to be worn within their facility just as the Town of Fuquay-Varina has done at our facilities.

We want to thank every citizen for doing their part to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by practicing the three W's, staying home when sick, and considering vaccination when eligible to do so.

The Town of Fuquay-Varina continues to monitor the data and trends of this ever-changing situation and will make adjustments to emergency declaration standards as necessary.