

Dear Snowden Overlook Residents:

At its August 23, 2021 meeting, the SOCA board of directors reviewed the most recent information concerning the pandemic and its existing policy recommending the wearing of masks in the clubhouse. One of the key indicators employed by CDC, Maryland, Howard County and SOCA is the rate of community transmission of the virus. CDC measures this by either the number of new infection cases per 100,000 population over 7 days or the positivity rate on tests performed over that period, whichever is worse. Unfortunately, in recent weeks, this measure has continued to rise nationally, in Maryland, and in Howard County. Howard County has recently risen to the “substantial” category of spread and has continued to rise. CDC recommends that, in areas with substantial or high rates, all persons, including the fully-vaccinated, wear masks indoors in public spaces to protect both themselves and others. About two weeks ago, SOCA added its recommendation for those inside the clubhouse. Since then, we’ve observed that this recommendation was not always followed. Indeed, it has become clear that following the recommendation is a real challenge, if not impossible, if eating or drinking is permitted in the same indoor space. Regrettably, as a result, the board decided to change the recommendation to the following requirement:

MASKS MUST BE WORN OVER MOUTH AND NOSE CONTINUOUSLY BY ANYONE INSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE, AND NO EATING OR DRINKING IS PERMITTED INSIDE THE CLUBHOUSE, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

[NOTE: This policy does not require masking on the outside areas of the clubhouse, including the awning and deck areas of the upper level and the pool deck.]

We hope this policy will be temporary and will be watching statistics on the spread of the virus, government guidance, and our own behavior in determining future changes to the policy.

Unfortunately, this policy will alter the nature of some of the services and events at the clubhouse. The changes will include:

- Indoor dining events will not be held. We will try to develop alternatives, so stay tuned.
- The coffee service will, at least initially, remain in operation. But beverages must be taken out of the clubhouse before consumption.

We currently see no need to alter existing pool rules.

The clubhouse staff (and others designated by the board), will ask any person inside the clubhouse not complying with policy by wearing a mask properly, or not wearing an orange wristband, to comply or leave. If that does not work, they will report the incident in detail to the board for possible further action. Our hope is that, with masking, the clubhouse can remain available for your enjoyment. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us to maintain the health and welfare of our wonderful community.

Please comply and be safe. With a little luck, these new restrictions could be relaxed as conditions change.

SOCA Board