



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**Office of the Speaker**  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301-4988

**Sherman A. Packard**  
**Speaker of the House**

For Immediate Release  
February 24, 2022  
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Concord, NH: On Wednesday, following updated guidance from NH public health officials, NH House Speaker Sherman Packard (R-Londonderry) officially announced to legislators that the next House session, scheduled for March 10th, would be held in Representatives Hall. This marks the first meeting of the House of Representatives in its own chamber for nearly two years. Speaker Packard issued the following comments relative to the upcoming session and the return to Representatives Hall:

“The decision to come back into the House was not made hastily. There is a long list of criteria we believe support the decision including recent updates to public health guidance including the removal of the recommendation to wear face masks, vaccines and vaccine boosters readily available, increased immunity among the population, and overall reduced risk. We think it is time to get back into the Representatives Hall to do what the people of NH elected us to do. The benchmarks are moving in the right direction, and with thoughtful management, we can continue to move forward towards normalcy.”

“The General Court has provided two vaccination clinics for legislators and staff. Additionally, we will continue to provide antigen self-test kits to all Members prior to session. N95 masks and other PPE will be available to those who would like to use them. Legislators are being asked to self-screen for symptoms and stay home if they are sick. Advanced air-filtration units in addition to our existing robust air handling system in the Chamber will be in place.”

“We have managed smartly throughout the pandemic with many risk-mitigation measures in place to ensure the peoples’ business continues to get done. We’re now in a different phase of the pandemic, and without some return to normalcy, we risk long-lasting damage to this historic institution and its traditions.”

*Key takeaways from the February 23 press conference with Governor Sununu and Dr. Benjamin Chan that support normalization of legislative operations:*

- *Hospitalizations have plummeted*
- *Omicron infections decreasing in New Hampshire and nationally*
- *Population immunity increasing as a result of vaccination and omicron*



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- *Decrease in severity of symptoms*
- *Overall risk decreasing, allowing for a pullback of mitigation efforts and updates to prevention strategies*
- *Public health no longer recommends mask use indoors*
- *Vaccines and boosters have never been more readily available*
- *Over 70% of the population have had at least one vaccination shot*
- *Ease and accessibility of home testing*
- *We have the tools to adequately manage moving forward*

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