

CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA
RESOLUTION CY20-20
A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF GUSTAVUS MANDATING
THE WEARING OF CLOTH FACE MASKS

WHEREAS, The Gustavus City Council adopted Resolution CY20-11 A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF GUSTAVUS DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND A REQUEST FOR STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus ("virus"), a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans and is easily transmittable person to person; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska has mandated testing or self-quarantining of travelers into Alaska from out of State, and other measures to counter the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, visitor and retail businesses in Gustavus are implementing protective plans and measures in accordance with State mandates and public health recommendations to reduce the risk of introducing the virus into the community; and

WHEREAS, the virus is primarily transmitted from person to person via exhaled respiratory droplets during speaking, coughing, sneezing, yelling, singing, and even breathing, that are then inhaled by another person nearby; and

WHEREAS, cloth facemasks have proven effective in blocking or reducing transmission of virus-containing respiratory droplets from infected persons to susceptible persons nearby, especially in indoor spaces but also in outdoor spaces where people cannot maintain adequate social distancing; and

WHEREAS, State of Alaska and National public health scientists and officials strongly recommend wearing of face coverings as an essential means of controlling the Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, States and municipalities nationwide, including municipalities in Alaska, are mandating wearing of facemasks in public areas where social distancing cannot be relied upon to block transmission; and

WHEREAS, rigorous application of social distancing, mask-wearing, and hand washing by people in Gustavus, may preclude the need for stricter or more economically and socially disruptive measures, such as travel controls.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. All individuals within the City of Gustavus are mandated to wear masks or cloth face coverings over their noses and mouths when they are indoors in public settings or in communal spaces outside the home, and when outdoors in public spaces where they may be within 6 feet of other members of the public outside their immediate family. This mandate is subject to the conditions and exceptions stated below.

2. The settings included in this order include, but are not limited to, the public and communal spaces within the following:

- A. Grocery stores and all other retail stores.
- B. Restaurants, cafes, bars, including food preparation, carry-out, and delivery food operations. Limited exception for customers while they are eating or drinking in one of these settings.
- C. Buses, taxis, vessels, aircraft and other forms of public or visitor transportation when passengers are present.
- D. Personal care facilities.
- E. Childcare facilities.
- F. Communal areas of offices where people from multiple households are present.
- G. Indoor communal spaces in other buildings including the City of Gustavus buildings, schools, the US Post Office, government offices.
- H. Churches.
- I. Outdoor areas such as docks and floats, small vessels, or crowded areas in parks where six feet social distancing may not be possible, and where members of the public other than one's immediate family may be encountered at close quarters.

3. Employers are responsible to make sure employees who are present in the workplace have access to and wear masks or cloth face coverings when in direct contact with customers, members of the public, or other employees. Masks are not required when the only direct contact is between members of the same household or when employees are not near others (within six feet).

4. This mandate does not apply to the following categories of people or activities:

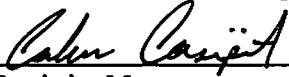
- A. Any child under the age of 2 years. These very young children should not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation;
- B. Any child under the age of 12 years unless a parent or caregiver supervises the use of face coverings by the child to avoid misuse;
- C. Any individual for whom wearing a mask or cloth face covering would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition or mental health condition, and any individual unable to tolerate a mask due to a physical or mental disability;
- D. Individuals who are speech impaired, deaf, or hard of hearing, or individuals communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing, where facial or mouth movements are an integral part of communication;
- E. Any individual who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance;
- F. Individuals who are exercising, if mask wearing would interfere with their breathing.

5. If a person declines to wear a mask or face covering because of a medical condition or disability as described above, this mandate does not require them to produce medical documentation verifying the stated condition or disability. Businesses may wish to consider accommodating such individuals through curbside or delivery service or by allowing the individual inside without a mask if doing so will not place others at risk.

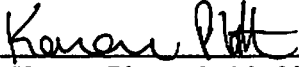
6. The City of Gustavus respectfully requests the public's cooperation with the provisions of this mandate for the benefit of all citizens and visitors. Violation of this mandate does not create grounds for residents to harass individuals who do not comply with it.

7. This resolution shall be effective on Council approval and shall terminate on October 1, 2020, unless repealed earlier or extended by further resolution.

PASSED and **APPROVED** by the Gustavus City Council this 13th day of July 2020.



Calvin Casipit, Mayor



Attest: Karen Platt, CMC City Clerk