

RESOLUTION 3113

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING WINNESHIEK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES ON FACE COVERINGS AND PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES AND DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY OUTREACH EDUCATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, On March 9, 2020, Governor Kim Reynolds declared a statewide emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump issued a proclamation declaring that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, a Proclamation of Public Health Disaster Emergency was issued to provide additional needed resources and measures to respond to this disaster, and such public health disaster continues to exist; and

WHEREAS, the risk of transmission of COVID-19 may be substantially reduced by continuing to ensure all citizens take appropriate public health precautions while in public venues, facilities, and spaces; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with COVID-19 are asymptomatic, yet risk transfer to others. Wearing a face covering greatly reduces risk of community spread; and

WHEREAS, the Winneshiek Medical Center supports the wearing of cloth facemasks in public settings. The proper use of facemasks helps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to vulnerable adults; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health, Luther College has announced, effective July 7 all faculty, staff, students, outside contractors, and visitors are required to wear a face covering in both indoor and outdoor spaces on campus; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2020, the CDC issued the following guidance on mask use:

1. CDC recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings and when around people who do not live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
2. Cloth face coverings may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.
3. Cloth face coverings are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings.
4. Cloth face coverings should NOT be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

WHEREAS, Decorah is a tourist and recreational Destination City and has thousands of visitors here for tourism and recreational activities, including enjoying many shops, restaurants, and entertainment establishments. Decorah wants these visitors to feel safe when they visit; and

WHEREAS, many businesses have already required masks and others indicated they would if the local jurisdiction supported them.

WHEREAS, community education and awareness are key metrics in helping provide information about health and safety measures members of the public should be following; and

WHEREAS, the City of Decorah, in partnership with other local organizations, should be a leader in showing and telling how to properly wear face coverings, how to properly social distance, and how to interact in safe and responsible social settings; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DECORAH, IOWA:

1. Governor Kim Reynolds is urged to follow a growing national trend led by 27 US States to issue an order requiring the use of face coverings or masks in both indoor and outdoor spaces where social distancing isn't possible. Children under the age of two would be exempt.
2. The Decorah City Council is in support of any directive or order so issued by the Winneshiek County Public Health Department and the Winneshiek County Board of Health that mandates or requires public use of face coverings.
3. The City Council urges the Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors to consider approving any such mandate or request for public use of face coverings issued from the Winneshiek County Public Health Department and the Winneshiek County Board of Health.
4. The City Council hereby initiates a community education and awareness campaign to encourage the use of face coverings in all public settings and to educate the public on the effects of wearing and not wearing face coverings.
5. The City Council urges all residents to "Mask Up" as part of a new city-wide campaign aimed at encouraging all residents to embrace wearing a face mask in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th of July, 2020.

City of Decorah, Iowa

Lorraine Borowski, Mayor

ATTEST:

Wanda Hemesath, City Clerk-Treasurer

Motion by:

Second by:

Voting aye:

Voting nay: