



EMERGENCY ORDER OF THE MAYOR

RE: COVID-19

E.O. # 2020- 7

June 30, 2020

1. **Masks Encouraged:** Persons interacting with others outside their households are encouraged to wear face coverings, especially when six feet (6') of separation is not feasible. Wearing face coverings is an easy, inexpensive way to protect yourself and those around you as we all strive together to halt the spread of this pandemic.

2. **Masks Required when Conducting Business:**
 - (a) **Mandate.** All Business Entities with premises within the Bastrop City Limits must develop and implement a COVID-19 Safety Policy ("Policy") in accordance with this Emergency Order. The Policy must require, at a minimum, that all employees, customers, clients, patients, staff, or visitors to the Business Entity's premises wear face coverings over their noses and mouths when on the Business Entity's premises and six feet (6') of separation from other persons is not feasible. Under the Policy, the wearing of face coverings must be a condition of accessing the premises, or receiving goods and/or services from the Business Entity. A sample policy is attached as *Exhibit "A"*.

 - (b) **Exceptions.** A Policy may provide for the following exceptions to the requirement that a face covering be worn by all employees, customers, clients, patients, staff, or visitors while on the Business Entity's premises:
 - (1) the person is under the age of ten years old (while noting that the U.S. CDC recommends face coverings for persons two years of age and older); or
 - (2) when exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside; or
 - (3) while driving alone or with passengers who are part of the driver's household; or
 - (4) when wearing a face covering would hinder the performance of a service or procedure; or
 - (5) when doing so poses a mental or physical health, safety, or security risk; or
 - (6) while in a building or conducting an activity that requires security surveillance or screening, for example, banks; or
 - (7) when consuming food or drink; or
 - (8) when the person is unable to remove a face covering without assistance.

 - (c) **Optional.** It is recommended that the Policy also include the implementation of other mitigating measures designed to control and reduce the transmission of COVID-19,

such as physical distancing of at least six feet (6'), handwashing, temperature checks, and/or health screenings.

(d) **Posting.** Each Business Entity must post its Policy in clear view at an easily seen location that provides notice to all employees, customers, clients, patients, and visitors, including entrances. A sample notice is attached as *Exhibit "B"*.

3. **Masks Required for City Officials:** City Officials must wear face coverings when directly interacting with members of the public regarding matters of city business when maintaining at least six feet (6') of separation is not feasible.

4. **Definitions:**

(a) **Business Entity:** a corporation, sole proprietorship, partnership, unincorporated association, or nonprofit corporation conducting business or otherwise providing goods and/or services directly to the public in the Bastrop City Limits.

(b) **City Official:** members of the city council, city employees, and members of city boards, commissions, or committees for the City of Bastrop.

5. **Purpose:** This Emergency Order is intended to hinder the spread of the COVID-19 virus as advised by the U.S. CDC and Texas DSHS.

6. **Rationale:** This Emergency Order is issued in recognition of the determination by the U.S. CDC and Texas DSHA that face coverings are a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. This Emergency Order is based on what we know about the role that respiratory droplets play in the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, paired with emerging evidence from clinical and laboratory studies that shows cloth face coverings reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth.

This Emergency Order is timely in light of the following recent developments:

(a) The Bastrop County Local Health Authority and the Bastrop / Lee County Medical Society has confirmed that there has been a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in Texas, and that the use of masks and face coverings can slow the spread of the virus.

(b) Reported cases of COVID-19 infections in Bastrop County rose by 80 persons in one week – an increase of over 22%.

(c) In Bastrop County, a twenty-five year old male passed away from COVID-19 related causes on or about Wednesday, June 24, 2020.

(d) In Bastrop County, a female over eighty years old passed away from COVID-19 related causes on or about Thursday, June 25, 2020.


(e) Numerous businesses have requested that the City of Bastrop establish a level playing field within which businesses can operate within a uniform set of standards.

- (f) Statistics for the Austin Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) indicate that COVID-19 related hospitalizations have increased 101%, Intensive Care Units (ICU) utilization has increased 35%, and use of Ventilators has increased 93%.
- (g) Executive Order GA28 by the Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott (June 26th), restricted occupancy levels and many places of public accommodation (indoor and outdoor).

7. **Effective:** This Emergency Order is effective *Tuesday, June 30, 2020, 7:00 p.m.*
8. **Duration:** This Emergency Order is temporary and shall be in effect for the duration of the Local State of Disaster unless earlier repealed.
9. **Penalty:** It shall be unlawful for any Business Entity to fail to comply with this Emergency Order. Violations of this Emergency Order occurring on or after 8:00 a.m., Friday, July 3, 2020, shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for each violation in accordance with City of Bastrop Code of Ordinances Section 1.08.011 and 1.01.009, and Texas Government Code Section §418.173.
10. **Repealer:** Any prior or conflicting Emergency Order is hereby repealed to the extent necessary to effectuate this Emergency Order.
11. **Authority:** This Emergency Order is hereby enacted in accordance to the authority vested in my office pursuant to:
 - Texas Government Code Chapter 418, and
 - Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 122, and
 - City of Bastrop Home Rule Charter Section 3.08, and
 - City of Bastrop Code of Ordinances Article 1.08, and
 - City of Bastrop Emergency Management Plan, and
 - Bastrop County Preparedness & Response Plan (Pandemic Influenza), and
 - Declaration of Local Disaster executed on March 16, 2020 (as confirmed and extended by the City Council via Resolution R-2020-32 on March 16, 2020); and
 - Governor Greg Abbott's Declaration of State Disaster on March 13, 2020.
12. **Official Determination:** In my official capacity as Mayor, Emergency Management Director, and member of the Policy Coordination Group for Bastrop County, I consider this action to be reasonable, prudent, and necessary for the preservation of life, and disaster mitigation, response, and recovery. This Emergency Order is critical to protecting the public health, safety and welfare.

THUS ORDERED:

by:


Connie B. Schroeder
Mayor, City of Bastrop

Sample COVID-19 SAFETY POLICY

for a Business Entity

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, it is the policy of this business, as required by City of Bastrop Emergency Orders, to require the following:

1. **FACE COVERING REQUIRED IN ORDER TO ENTER PREMISES.** All persons over the age of ten (10), including employees, customers, clients, patients, and visitors ("Patrons"), who enter this business **MUST** wear a face covering over their nose and mouth, such as a commercially made or homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief. A face covering is a reasonable and prudent condition to our business providing access to our premises, services, or goods.
2. **EXCEPTIONS.** The following exceptions will be made to the requirement that a face covering be worn by Patrons while on the premises:
 - (a) the Patron is under the age of ____ years old (NOTE: The U.S. CDC recommends face coverings for persons two years of age and older); or
 - (b) when exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside; or
 - (c) when wearing a face covering would hinder the performance of a service or procedure; or
 - (d) when doing so poses a mental or physical health, safety, or security risk; or
 - (e) while in a building or doing an activity that requires security surveillance or screening, for example, banks; or
 - (f) when consuming food or drink; or
 - (g) when the person is unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
3. **SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS.** Even with the use of appropriate face coverings, individuals should maintain six (6) feet of social distancing from others outside their own household whenever possible.
 - (a) Employees should not work within six (6) feet of one another, except to the extent necessary to provide services.
 - (b) Patrons should maintain six (6) feet of separation from others outside their own household to the extent feasible when inside these premises and must do so while queuing or waiting.
4. **VIOLATIONS.** Patrons who do not wear a face covering will be asked to leave the premises and may not be provided goods or services until the face covering requirements of this policy and City and County Orders are followed.
5. **NOTICE & SIGNAGE.** Notice of this COVID-19 Safety Policy will be posted in clear view at all entrances to the premises.

[Note that this document is an example, only]

MASKS REQUIRED



Pursuant to Emergency Order of the Mayor #2020-7: All Business Entities must require, at a minimum, that all employees, customers, clients, patients, staff, or visitors to the Business Entity's premises wear face coverings over their noses and mouths when on the Business Entity's premises and six feet (6') of separation from other persons is not feasible.

Visit www.cityofbastrop.org/COVID19 for more information.

