



Town of Melbourne Beach
EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 2020-15

AN EMERGENCY ORDER OF THE TOWN OF MELBOURNE BEACH, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUIRING ALL BUSINESSES TO POST THEIR MASK POLICY AT THE ENTRY OF THE BUSINESS TO ADVISE CUSTOMERS, PATRONS, EMPLOYEES AND BUSINESS INVITEES OF SAME PRIOR TO ENTERING THE BUSINESSES; REQUIRING CUSTOMERS, PATRONS, EMPLOYEES AND BUSINESS INVITEES OF ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES, AS DEFINED HEREIN, TO WEAR MASKS; MAKING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS OF EMERGENCY AND SUPPORTING THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS AS AN EFFECTIVE MEASURE AGAINST THE SPREAD OF COVID-19; PROVIDING FOR EXCEPTIONS; PROVIDING FOR SUNSET; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-51 on March 1, 2020 directing the Florida Department of Health to issue a Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida Surgeon General and State Health Officer declared on March 1, 2020 that a public health emergency exists in the State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-52 on March 9, 2020 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; as extended by Executive Order No. 20-113 and Executive Order No. 20-166; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") issued the 15 Days to Slow the Spread guidance on March 16, 2020 advising individuals to adopt far-reaching social distancing measures, and avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-68 on March 17, 2020, in partial response to information reflecting individuals were not adhering to the CDC's social distancing measures and gathering limitations; and

WHEREAS, between March 17, 2020 and the date hereof, Governor DeSantis issued several Executive Orders placing numerous restrictions on individuals and businesses in response to the Statewide level and threat of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump updated and extended the previously issued 15 Days to Slow the Spread guidance on March 31, 2020, renamed it 30 Days to Slow the Spread, and along with the White House Coronavirus Task Force urged Americans to continue to adhere to the guidelines and expand community mitigation efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Melbourne Beach ("the Town") adopted a Proclamation declaring a Civil Emergency/State of Local Emergency ("the Proclamation") on March 18, 2020 declaring a local state of emergency for the Town regarding the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Proclamation, the Town authorized the exercise of its authority and powers regarding the COVID-19 emergency to be exercised under the direction of the Mayor to the extent necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare and the best interests of the Town, and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order #20-112 as modified by Executive Order #20-120 on May 9, 2020, and Executive Order #20-123 on May 14, 2020, in response to the recommendations set forth in Phase One of the Plan issued by the Task Force to Re-Open Florida, and adopted a phased approach to remove or decrease certain restrictions imposed pursuant to the Executive Order #20-91, Safer-At-Home Order; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order #20-139, moving all counties in Florida, other than Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties, into Phase Two issued by the Task Force to Re-Open Florida, which order supersedes Executive Order #20-91, the Safer-At-Home Order, and supersedes in part, and extends and modified, other provisions of Executive Order 20-112; and

WHEREAS, guidance released by the CDC on June 15, 2020 states that (i) the COVID-19 virus is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people cough, sneeze and talk and (ii) that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then by touching their mouth, nose or possibly their eyes. This guidance goes on to state that "personal prevention practices (such as staying home when sick, social distancing, wearing a cloth face covering, and handwashing) and environmental prevention practices (such as cleaning and disinfection) are important are important ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has expressly found that "COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when a person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land on the mouths or noses of people nearby and possibly inhaled into the lungs. Studies and evidence on infection control report that these droplets usually travel around 6 feet (about "2 arms' length"); and

WHEREAS, the CDC therefore specifically recommends that as businesses and communities reopen, and people resume their daily activities, people should wear face coverings to slow the spread of COVID-19 particularly in "public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain"; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2020, the State of Florida Surgeon General, Scott A. Rivkees, M.D., issued a Public Health Advisory recommending the wearing of face coverings in any setting where social distancing is not possible, except under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order #20-244 (Phase 3, Right to Work, Business Certainty, Suspension of Fines) which supersedes and eliminates any and all restrictions of Executive Orders 20112, 20-123 and 20-139, as well as Executive Orders 20-192, 20-214 and 20-223, except as modified within; and

WHEREAS, Sections 876.12 through 876.15 of the Florida Statutes, make it unlawful to wear a mask, however, pursuant to Section 876.155, Florida Statutes, this prohibition of mask wearing only applies when there is also evidence that there is an intent to intimidate other people, deprive them equal protection under the law, or engage in criminal conduct; and

WHEREAS, based on the information provided by the Florida Department of Health in Brevard County, and updated daily, the COVID-19 cases in the Town of Melbourne Beach has been rising substantially since the re-opening of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, based on the advice of medical professionals, the number of COVID-19 cases will continue to rise unless measures are instituted to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has the highest percentage of population in the United States 65 years of age and older, as well as the second largest population of that demographic; and

WHEREAS, based upon recent updated census estimates, the demographic of residents 65 years of age and older living in the Town of Melbourne Beach is 18.7%; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, the vast majority of persons that test positive for the COVID-19 virus that are hospitalized or die from the virus are persons over the age of 65 years and/or have underlying health conditions; and

WHEREAS, according the CDC, overall, 31 % of cases, 45% of hospitalizations, 53% of ICU admissions, and 80% of deaths associated with COVID-19 were among

adults aged 65 years of age and older with the highest percentage of severe outcomes among persons aged 85 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission has determined that it is in the best interest of the residents of the Town of Melbourne Beach and it is the furtherance of the public health, safety, and welfare, to formally adopt this Order to require all businesses to post their face covering policy to alert older persons and persons with underlying conditions whether or not all other persons within a business will have face coverings as a way to make informed decisions to enter a business; as specified herein on an emergency basis in accordance with Chapter 16 of the Town of Melbourne Beach Ordinances and require businesses that are deemed essential to the needs of all residents to require face coverings for all patrons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY AN EMERGENCY ORDER BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF MELBOURNE BEACH, FLORIDA, as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are adopted by the Town Commission as legislative findings.

Section 2. Definitions.

"Face Covering" shall mean a uniform piece of material that securely covers a person's nose and mouth and remains affixed in place without the use of one's hands, whether store-bought or homemade, concurrent with CDC guidelines.

Section 3. Businesses Required to Post Face Coverings Policy on their Doorway.

(a). Every business in the Town of Melbourne Beach with a storefront that allows customers into their building for the purpose of purchasing goods and services are required to post their Policy requirements for Face Coverings for their customers, patrons and employees.

(b). The Policy shall be posted on the entry doorway in a clearly visible manner for all customers to read prior to entering the business.

(c). All businesses are encouraged to prohibit entry of any person who is not wearing a face covering with the exception of the below listed persons:

1. Persons under the age of 6 years old; or
2. Persons for whom a face covering would cause impairment due to an existing health condition; or
3. Persons exercising while maintaining social distancing; or
4. Persons eating or drinking; or

5. When a person who is hearing impaired needs to see the mouth of someone wearing a face covering in order to communicate.

Section 4. *"Essential" businesses required to mandate Face Coverings for all customers and employees.*

(a). Every business in the Town of Melbourne Beach with a storefront that allows customers in their building for the purpose of purchasing goods and services that are deemed to be essential to all residents (gas stations, convenience stores, grocery stores, and drug stores) are required to mandate face coverings for their customers, patrons, employees and business invitees.

(b). The mandate shall be posted on the entry doorway in a clearly visible manner for all customers to read prior to entering the business.

(c). Essential businesses are required to prohibit entry of any person who is not wearing a face covering with the exception of the below listed persons:

1. Persons under the age of 6 years old; or
2. Persons for whom a face covering would cause impairment due to an existing health condition; or
3. Persons eating or drinking; or
4. When a person who is hearing impaired needs to see the mouth of someone wearing a face covering in order to communicate.

Section 5 Severability

In the event a court of competent jurisdiction shall hold or determine that any part of this Order is invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Order shall not be affected and it will be presumed that the Town Commission for the Town of Melbourne Beach did not intend to enact such invalid or unconstitutional provision. It shall further be assumed that the Town Commission would have enacted the remainder of this Order without said invalid and unconstitutional provision thereby causing said remainder to remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Conflicts. All ordinances or parts of ordinances or orders or parts of orders in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

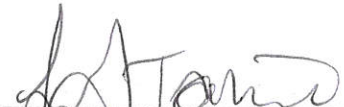
Section 7. Effective Date and Sunset. T

This Emergency Order shall become effective on Friday, November 20, 2020 at 12:01 am., and shall expire upon the expiration of the existing Town of Melbourne Beach Civil Emergency/State of Local Emergency. This order may be canceled earlier by action of the Town's Mayor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town to be affixed in Melbourne Beach, Florida on this 18th Day of November 2020.

ATTEST


Wyatt Hoover, Mayor


Jennifer Torres, Town Clerk