

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF CENTRE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION 16 OF 2020

A RESOLUTION TO SAVE LIVES & BRING BACK JOBS BY
ENDORISING AND SUPPORTING GOVERNOR WOLF'S & SECRETARY LEVINE'S
MANDATORY MASK WEARING FOR PENNSYLVANIANS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously seen in humans;¹ and

WHEREAS, the virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is not the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold;² and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) “the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person to person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)”,³ and

WHEREAS, the CDC has declared COVID-19 a public health emergency and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf proclaimed a disaster emergency due to COVID-19 throughout the Commonwealth;⁴ and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump proclaimed that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency;⁵ and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, the Centre County Board of Commissioners declared a disaster emergency due to COVID-19 in Centre County;⁶ and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020 and July 2, 2020, the Centre County Board of Commissioners extended their declaration of disaster emergency;⁷ and

WHEREAS, as of July 6, 2020, that there have been at least 2,900,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the U.S., and at least 127,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the U.S.;⁸ and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC “a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”) can transmit

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Basics>

² Ibid.

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Spread>

⁴ <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-signs-covid-19-disaster-declaration-to-provide-increased-support-for-state-response/>

⁵ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-declaring-national-emergency-concerning-novel-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-outbreak/>

⁶ http://centrecountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13281/CentreCo-BOC-COVID-19_Emergency_Declaration

⁷ <https://www.centrecountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13412/33120-Declaration-of-Disaster-Emergency>

⁸ <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms”;⁹ and

WHEREAS, #Masks4All is an all-volunteer organization that implores people and governments to follow the “overwhelming scientific evidence that shows we need to wear homemade masks in public to slow COVID-19”;¹⁰ and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2020, U.S. Senator Pat Toomey became first member of Congress to endorse the #Masks4All movement;¹¹ and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020, President Donald J. Trump announced the CDC was updating its guidance and recommending that Americans wear cloth face coverings in public settings;¹² and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020, Governor Wolf called for universal masking;¹³ and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2020, Centre County Government began distribution of cloth masks to County Employees and residents interacting with County Employees; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2020, U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams encouraged more Americans to wear face coverings so “we’ll have MORE freedom to go out”;¹⁴ and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2020, the National Association of Manufacturers launched an ad campaign calling on Americans to help get the economy roaring, protect jobs, and stop the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a face covering in public spaces;¹⁵ and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2020, Governor’s Office of Communications sent out a press release in which Governor Wolf is quoted as saying, “Masks are required in businesses, for the entire time someone is visiting a business”;¹⁶ and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2020, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, “made a plea to Americans to recommit to wearing masks, washing their hands, getting tested and staying at home as a matter of patriotism”;¹⁷ and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2020, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar said, “We have to act and people as individuals have to act responsibly. We need to social distance, we need to wear our face coverings if we’re in settings where we can’t social distance”;¹⁸ and

WHEREAS, the use of masks can slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus by helping to prevent people who

⁹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

¹⁰ <https://masks4all.co/about-us/>

¹¹ <https://www.toomey.senate.gov/?p=news&id=2607>

¹² <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/03/826219824/president-trump-says-cdc-now-recommends-americans-wear-cloth-masks-in-public>

¹³ <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-calls-for-universal-masking/>

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/JeromeAdamsMD/status/1272130428623818753>

¹⁵ <https://www.nam.org/nam-unveils-wear-a-face-covering-ad-campaign-9548/>

¹⁶ <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-masks-are-mandatory-in-pennsylvania-businesses/>

¹⁷ <https://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-white-house-coronavirus-briefing-fauci-trump-20200626-5vxqshobmrbtnbfzkdlyr2715wy-story.html>

¹⁸ <https://twitter.com/meetthepress/status/1277227829223178246>

have the virus (and may not have any symptoms) from transmitting it to others around them;¹⁹ and

WHEREAS, the mask should cover your mouth and nose and will help stop you from exposing others to the virus through your breath, cough, or sneeze;²⁰ and

WHEREAS, only medical grade masks (which are in short supply and should be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders) can prevent you from breathing in the COVID-19 virus, and only when fitted properly;²¹ and

WHEREAS, non-medical masks prevent you from unknowingly spreading germs you have to others;²² and

WHEREAS, a simple cloth or paper mask that covers your mouth and nose will work. Both work fine provided they cover your mouth and nose. A cloth covering, like a bandana, scarf, or piece of fabric will also work provided it snugly fits against the side of your face and covers your mouth and nose;²³ and

WHEREAS, directions on how to mask a homemade mask can be found online at the CDC's website at <https://bit.ly/howtomakeamaskcdc> and the Pennsylvania Department of Health's website at <https://bit.ly/padohhowtomakeamask>; and

WHEREAS, before putting on a mask thoroughly clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer; and

WHEREAS, to safely remove a used mask carefully untie and/or pull the mask up and away from your face, being careful not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Place the mask in a plastic bag until it can be laundered. Wash your hands immediately after removing your mask;²⁴ and

WHEREAS, a washing machine can be used to properly and safely wash a cloth face covering using regular detergent and hot water. Dry on a hot cycle. The CDC recommends washing used masks daily;²⁵ and

WHEREAS, Governor Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine's business guidance and restaurant industry guidance includes mandatory mask-wearing requirements;²⁶ and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2020, data from CDC for states indicate that Pennsylvania was "one of just three states that has had a downward trajectory of COVID-19 cases for more than 42 days";²⁷ and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2020, Dr. Levine signed an order, under the authority granted to her by the Disease Prevention and Control Act, that masks must be worn whenever anyone leaves their home. The order outlines the situations when a mask must be worn and includes limited exceptions to the face-covering requirement;²⁸

²⁹ and

¹⁹ <https://champaign-covid-19-ccgisc.hub.arcgis.com/pages/mask-resources>

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ <https://www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-covid-19/#ForBusinesses>

²⁷ <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-pa-is-one-of-three-states-recognized-by-cdc-for-covid-19-reduction-success/>

²⁸ <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20200701-SOH-Universal-Face-Coverings-Order.pdf>

²⁹ <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-sec-of-health-signs-expanded-mask-wearing-order/>

WHEREAS, on July 3, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Health released FAQs on their website regarding the Order. On the FAQ webpage, it states, “[t]he Order does apply to individuals inside and outside of local government facilities, court houses, and other government buildings”,³⁰ and

WHEREAS, the governor and secretary of Health’s guidance states that businesses must “Require all customers to wear masks while on the premises. Businesses that provide medication, medical supplies or groceries must provide an alternate, no contact, means of delivering goods for customers who cannot wear a mask”,³¹ and

WHEREAS, the governor and secretary of Health’s guidance states that restaurants must “Require all customers to wear masks while entering, exiting, or otherwise traveling throughout the restaurant or retail food service business. Face coverings may be removed while seated”,³² and

WHEREAS, the governor and secretary of Health’s business guidance and restaurant industry guidance both express that “individuals who cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition (including children under the age of 2 years per CDC guidance) may enter the premises and are not required to provide documentation of such medical condition”,³³ and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Centre County Board of Commissioners endorses and supports Governor Wolf and Secretary Levine’s mandatory mask wearing for Pennsylvanians when they leave their homes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners calls on people who live, work, learn, and play in Centre County to wear masks when they leave their homes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners extends its profound appreciation to the leaders of businesses, nonprofits, institutions of faith, and other organizations who have encouraged the wearing of cloth masks to help protect people and safely reopen our economy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners agrees that by wearing masks we can save lives, safeguard businesses and bring back jobs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners will allocate a portion of the County’s allocation of CARES Act funds for the purchase of masks and other protective equipment for businesses, nonprofits, faith communities and other allowable organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners encourages each of Centre County’s thirty-five municipal boards and councils to adopt similar resolutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an electronic and paper copy of this resolution will be sent to each municipality.

³⁰ <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx>

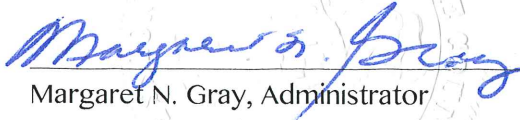
³¹ Ibid.

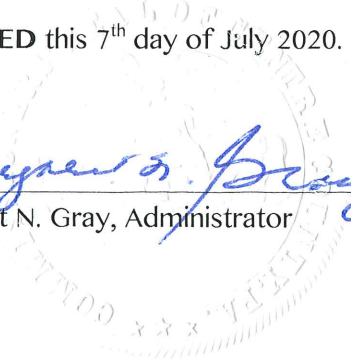
³² <https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/restaurant-industry-guidance/>

³³ See footnotes 30 and 32.


ADOPTED this 7th day of July 2020.

ATTEST


Margaret N. Gray, Administrator



CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Michael Pipe, Chair


Mark Higgins, Vice-Chair


Steven G. Dershem, Commissioner