

EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND ORDINANCE

#21-01

A DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY CONTINUING BECAUSE OF COVID-19; AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DUBLIN TAKING IMMEDIATE EFFECT REQUIRING THE USE OF MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK; TO SET AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic as of March 11, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in response to the outbreak of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp declared that a public health emergency exists in the State of Georgia due to the spread of COVID-19 within Georgia;

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Mayor and Council of the City of Dublin declared a state of Emergency due to COVID-19 and on July 28, 2020, the Mayor and Council renewed the state of Emergency for the City;

WHEREAS, a significant number of Georgia residents continue to be at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19;

WHEREAS, a large number of persons with serious infections can compromise the ability of the healthcare system to deliver necessary care to the public;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness, transmitted through person-to-person contact or by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus and persons infected with COVID-19 may become symptomatic two to fourteen days after exposure;

WHEREAS, asymptomatic (including presymptomatic) infected persons are infectious and, without mitigation many infections occur from individuals without symptoms;

WHEREAS, respiratory droplets from infected persons are a major mode of COVID-19 transmission. This understanding is the basis of the recommendations for physical distancing, and of the personal protective equipment guidance for healthcare workers. Droplets do not only come from coughing or sneezing; droplets are generated via talking and breathing;

WHEREAS, evidence indicates that the use of face coverings reduces the transmissibility per contact by reducing transmission of infected droplets in both laboratory and clinical contexts. Public face covering wearing is most effective at stopping the spread of the virus when compliance is high. This evidence supports the conclusion that the adoption of more widespread face covering requirements can help to control the COVID-19 epidemic by reducing the shedding of droplets into the environment from asymptomatic individuals;

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control announced on August 12, 2020, that parts of the State of South Carolina under public mask-wearing mandates registered a 46.3% drop in coronavirus cases in the four weeks after they were introduced as compared to areas of the state which did not impose such mandates;

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control announced on August 25, 2020 that those communities with mask-wearing mandates continues to slow the rate of disease spread compared to communities without such mandates;

WHEREAS, data from the State of Alabama shows an 11% drop in COVID-19 cases in the four weeks since that state's mask mandate went into effect;

ORDINANCE

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