

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCE
#20-15**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF DUBLIN REQUIRING THE USE OF MASKS OR
FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK;
TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR
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 are 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 Governor also has repeatedly and strenuously urged Georgians to adopt a practice that is simple but highly effective at preventing the spread of COVID-19: wearing a face covering or mask when in public;

WHEREAS, specifically, Governor Kemp, through Executive Order 05.12.20.02 and subsequent Executive Orders, has recommended that individuals wear facial coverings over the nose and mouth to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 when they are in public places where they cannot practice social distancing (i.e., stay at least six feet away from other individuals who do not share the same household);

WHEREAS, in early July, Governor Kemp embarked on a statewide “Wear a Mask Tour” flying to numerous Georgia cities to publicly emphasize the need for Georgians to wear masks;