



MAYORAL PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-2

A PROCLAMATION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY, ENCOURAGING AND RECOMMENDING FACE COVERINGS, AND MANDATING ACCESSABILITY AND FACE COVERINGS IN CITY BUILDINGS

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to pose a serious and potentially deadly threat to the public and the public health as the Federal Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) guidance notes that large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States by introduction of the virus to new communities; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Iowa, by Proclamation dated August 21, 2020, continues to strongly encourage all Iowans two years of age or older to wear a mask or other face covering when in public settings, especially in circumstances when it is not possible to remain six feet away from others outside their household, unless it is unsafe to do so because of health or disability;” and

WHEREAS, new positive cases of the virus continue at an alarming rate in the state of Iowa, including Linn County, and putting the health care system and the residents of Robins in immediate danger and with no end in sight to the situation; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and the Iowa Board of Medicine have determined that face coverings are a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19 that could reduce the spread of the virus, particularly when used universally within communities, and the Iowa Board of Medicine issued a face mask advisory on August 24, 2020, noting that masks are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings; and

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2020, a White House coronavirus task force issued new recommendations for Iowa to mandate face coverings in the state's largest cities to try to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s August 21, 2020, Proclamation also provides that businesses and gatherings ensure social distancing of employees, customers and attendees, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with the guidance of the Iowa Department of Public Health (“IDPH”); and

WHEREAS, the IDPH's reopening guidance advises that members of the public consider the use of cloth face coverings when social distancing is not possible because wearing face coverings in public places where social distancing measures are difficult (like grocery stores and pharmacies) can help slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, an advisory proclamation encouraging and recommending that all persons within the City of Robins wear face coverings is warranted for reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19, and necessary to protect the health, welfare and safety of residents and visitors and accelerate local recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation encouraging and urging residents of the City of Robins to wear face coverings is consistent with the Governor's Proclamation and the guidance of the IDPH, as well as the Linn County Department of Public Health.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FORGOING AND OTHER VALID EMERGENT CONCERNS, I, CHUCK HINZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ROBINS, IOWA HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. State of Emergency.** I determine that a state of emergency or public danger exists, the recitals contained hereinabove are true and correct, and that the guidance referenced herein is appropriate in the circumstances.
- 2. Face Coverings.** I urge, strongly advise, and recommend the following:
 - a.** That all persons in the City of Robins wear a face covering such as a cloth mask, surgical mask, plastic shield or similar covering that covers their nose and mouth when in a public place in all of the following circumstances, unless as excepted in subsection (c) below.
 - b.**
 - 1)** When outside, except at one's residence or dwelling place, and unable to stay at least six (6) feet away from other persons;
 - 2)** When inside any indoor public settings or place of public accommodations, and also including without limitation all retail stores, restaurants, bars, taverns and other accommodations, even if able to maintain 6 feet of distance from other persons;
 - 3)** When using public transportation or private car service (including taxis, ride share, or carpooling).
 - 4)** Any organization or business that is a public accommodation of any sort is urged to require customers who desire to enter or remain on its premises to use a mask, plastic shield, or face covering that covers their nose and mouth. Such organizations should post signs at the entrance(s) instructing

customers of their obligation to wear a face covering while inside pursuant to this Proclamation.

- c. The following persons may be exempted from the recommendations of this section:
- 1) Persons under 2 years of age;
 - 2) Any person who has trouble breathing, is currently on oxygen therapy or on a ventilator;
 - 3) Any unconscious or incapacitated person or any person who is otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance;
 - 4) Any person who has been told in writing by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional not to wear face coverings when that writing is carried on the person not using an otherwise required face covering unless such inquiry is prohibited by Federal or State law
 - 5) Any person actively engaged in a public safety role, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel;
 - 6) Any person traveling in a personal vehicle alone or with members of the same household;
 - 7) Any person actively engaged in a sports activity, this exception does not apply to persons waiting to participate, such as team members on a sideline or in a dugout;
 - 8) Any person engaged in group exercise or working out at a gym, so long as the person remains 6 feet away from any other person;
 - 9) Any person seated at a food establishment when actually engaged in the process of eating or drinking;
 - 10) Any person actually obtaining a service that would require temporary removal of the persons face covering (e.g. dental, orthodontic or medical services);
 - 11) Any person for whom a face covering would be violative of a sincerely held religious belief or doctrine;
 - 12) Children or staff at a private daycare facility, so long as said facility does not provide care to children not regularly enrolled in their program such as on a drop in or temporary basis;
 - 13) When Federal, State or Local law or administrative policy prohibits wearing a face covering or requires the removal of the face covering.

- 3. Access to Municipal Governmental Buildings by the Public.** It is hereby required that any member of the public, while in a building owned and/or operated by the City of Robins, including but not limited to City Hall, wear a face covering such as a cloth mask, surgical mask, plastic shield or similar covering that covers both the nose and mouth, at all times. This requirement shall not apply to municipal employees, other than during those times when such employees are directly interacting with the public, or are unable to distance themselves from each other by staying at least six (6) feet away from each other, or are otherwise subject to exemption by profession (e.g., a person actively engaged in a public safety role, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel). Additionally, no person shall be admitted to the office area of City Hall other than office personnel; this shall apply to members of the public and other Robins employees, alike.
- 4. General.** This Proclamation of emergency is part of an ongoing response of the City of Robins to protect public health and safety and may be modified or superseded with more restrictive proclamations at any time as circumstances warrant and in all other respects and purposes.

Proclaimed this 9th day of November, 2020.

Chuck Hinz, Mayor