A RESOLUTION OF GRAND FORKS CITY COUNCIL
Requiring the Use of Face-Coverings

WHEREAS, The City of Grand Forks declared a state of emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic on March 16, 2020, and has since been approved and extended by the Grand Forks City Council;

WHEREAS, On August, 27, 2020, The City of Grand Forks updated its City of Grand Forks COVID-19 Workplace Masks Policy to include mandatory mask wearing by employees while at work and representing the city, unless socially distant and pre-approved parameters are met;

WHEREAS, “Face coverings” or “masks” are defined as paper or two-layered cloth face masks that cover the nose and mouth completely, and include a paper or disposable face mask and/or religious face covering;

WHEREAS, The City of Grand Forks appreciates the sacrifice that individuals and businesses (including employees and other workers) are making in order to stem the rise of COVID-19 cases, such as social distancing, and despite which the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths continue to rise in our community;

WHEREAS, “Social distancing” is defined as individuals keeping at least six (6) feet of distance from other individuals who are not members of their household;

WHEREAS, “Non-household” is defined as a group of individuals who do not share the same living unit;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The City of Grand Forks shall continue its fight against rising COVID-19 cases and deaths, and supporting businesses, The Grand Forks Public School System, The University of North Dakota, Altru Health Systems, Spectra, and Sanford Health, and Grand Forks County in remaining open and operational during an unprecedented pandemic;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That every person shall, within the City of Grand Forks, wear a face covering (over the mouth and nose in all indoor and outdoor environments where non-household members are present and where a distance of six (6) feet or more cannot be maintained between non-household members who are present at the subject indoor or outdoor environment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the following exemptions shall be included in this resolution and approved from face mask wearing:
   a. Persons younger than school age, although parents and guardians are encouraged to have such younger children wear face coverings when and where appropriate;
   b. Persons with a health, medical condition, disability or safety that prevents wearing a face covering or the compliance with this Resolution is precluded under any federal, state or local law, including the federal Americans with Disability Act (the “ADA”);
c. Persons performing job duties where a six (6) foot distance is not achievable, but a mask is inhibitory to the ability to safely and effectively perform the job duty;
d. Persons participating in voting in any federal, state or local election
e. Persons participating in athletic activities where a six (6) feet distance is not achievable, but a mask is inhibitory to the activity;
f. Persons actively consuming food or drink;
g. Persons driving a motor vehicle alone or with passengers from the driver’s household;
h. Persons receiving services that require access to the face for security, surveillance, or other purposes may temporarily remove a face covering while receiving those services;
i. Persons engaged in religious worship activities; however, face coverings are strongly encouraged;
j. Persons giving a speech or performance for broadcast or to an audience; however those persons shall safely distance from nearby individuals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, This resolution shall not prohibit law enforcement officers or local officials from enforcing trespass laws or other applicable laws in removing violators at the request of businesses or other property owners;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that although this resolution is being issued with the strongest possible urging, there is no penalty for non-compliance with this resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that nothing herein waives or alters any other provision of Grand Forks City Code of 1987 or any resolution, policy or procedure of the City, or order by the Mayor, and if there is any conflict exists with the terms of this Resolution, the terms and provisions of Grand Forks City Code of 1987, or other resolution, policy or procedure of the City, or order of the Mayor shall prevail;

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect immediately, and shall remain in effect until the Grand Forks Health Officer Risk Score is at the Moderate Risk level (yellow color).

Adopted by the Grand Forks City Council the 26th day of October, 2020.

CITY OF GRAND FORKS

Brandon Bochenski, Mayor
Dated: 10/27/2020

ATTEST:

Maureen Storstad, City Auditor
Date: 10/27/20