

PROCLAMATION



Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to endanger public health, evidenced by increasing rates of transmission, positive case numbers, hospitalizations, and deaths in the City of Appleton, and more broadly, in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, current case indicators of increasing burden (case rate) and growing trajectory (percent case change) evidence a high COVID-19 activity level in the City of Appleton; and

WHEREAS, empirical evidence shows the proper use of face coverings over the nose and mouth, in conjunction with physical distancing and frequent hand washing, is a generally safe, inexpensive, effective, and actionable strategy for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in communities; and

WHEREAS, the use of face coverings is increasingly supported and promoted by a broad, diverse collection of public and private local, state, and national organizations; and

WHEREAS, the most effective time to bring the COVID-19 spread under control is now, at this critical juncture, before the fall and winter of 2020 when the co-occurrence of the pandemic and traditional flu season have the potential to further stress the healthcare system, causing hospitals and healthcare providers to reach or exceed capacity, which could lead to higher mortality rates and to an upcoming winter that Centers for Disease Control Director Robert Redfield predicts will be “one of the most difficult times that we have experienced in American public health;” and

WHEREAS, continued refusal on the part of the Legislature and Governor to work together on statewide mitigation has led to a patchwork of policies at the local level that frustrate and confuse residents and visitors, and are less effective than a unified approach to addressing the pandemic.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I, JACOB A. WOODFORD, Mayor of the City of Appleton, do issue this proclamation urging the use of face coverings by residents of, visitors to, and businesses within the City of Appleton, until such time that the City’s COVID-19 case data indicates the pandemic has abated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in support of this proclamation and in furtherance of the public’s health, safety, and welfare the following guidance is offered:

Section 1. Definitions.

1. **FACE COVERING** means a protective mask covering the nose and mouth, including cloth face coverings or surgical masks as described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as face shields that cover the front and sides of the face.
2. **BUILDING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** means any structure used in whole or in part as a place of resort, assemblage, lodging, trade, traffic, occupancy, or other use by the public.

Section 2. Face Coverings.

1. **FACE COVERING USE INDOORS.** Any person five (5) years old or older should, whenever practical, wear a face covering whenever the person is in a common area of any building open to the public or is within six (6) feet of any other person who is not a member of the person's family or household.
2. **FACE COVERING USE OUTDOORS.** Any person five (5) years old or older should, whenever practical, wear the face covering whenever the person is in an outdoor public space and within six (6) feet of any other person who is not a member of the person's family or household.

Section 3. Exceptions. This proclamation recognizes that wearing face coverings may not be possible in every situation or for some people, including but not limited to:

1. Persons who fall into the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance for those who should not wear cloth face coverings due to a medical condition, mental health condition or sensory sensitivities, intellectual or developmental disability, or for whom no other accommodation can be offered under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. Persons who have upper-respiratory chronic conditions, silent or invisible disabilities, or are communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing and communication cannot be achieved through other means.
3. Persons in settings where it is not practical or feasible to wear face coverings when obtaining or rendering goods or services to the extent necessary to obtain or render such goods or services including, but not limited to, the receipt of dental services or medical treatments or consuming food or beverages.
4. Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a safety risk to the person related to their work.
5. Whenever federal, state, or local law otherwise prohibit wearing a face mask or where it is necessary to evaluate or verify an individual's identity.
6. Places of worship and persons whose religious beliefs prevent them from wearing a face covering.

Section 4. Partnership with Businesses. Recognizing the significant challenges businesses have faced as a result of COVID-19 and their need to continue operating, along with the need to also suppress the transmission of COVID-19, the owners or operators of any building open to the public are strongly encouraged to adopt and follow the guidance in this proclamation. Businesses and organizations may rely on an individual's statements if the individual claims to be unable to wear a face covering due to one or more of the exceptions referenced above. When possible, businesses and organizations should provide accommodations to those who are unable to use cloth face covering, such as alternative face coverings or providing service options that do not require entry into a facility or contact with a guest. Any member of the public who refuses to comply with the face covering policy of a business and refuses to leave the premises after being asked to do so by the business owner or staff, may be considered in violation of other laws and subject to penalties for those violations.

Section 5. Encouragement and Respect. All who can wear a face covering to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 are encouraged to do so. Mitigating the spread of COVID-19 is the responsibility of all members of our community, and we will prevail by working together in our common interest. Even as we work to meet the challenge of the pandemic, we must treat each other with respect and dignity regardless of our differences of ability and opinion.

Signed and sealed this 28th day of July 2020.




JACOB A. WOODFORD
MAYOR OF APPLETON