

Taney County Health Department

Resolution #2020-2

RESOLUTION PRONOUNCING THE NEED FOR FACE COVERINGS IN ANY INDOOR PUBLIC PLACE IN TANEY COUNTY

June 25, 2020

WHEREAS, in December 2019, medical professionals detected a novel coronavirus, now designated as “SARS-CoV-2,” which causes a disease known as “coronavirus disease 2019” abbreviated and popularly known as “COVID-19”; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared an outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, advising countries to prepare for containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the Governor of Missouri declared a state of emergency exists in the State of Missouri to address the COVID-19 to prevent a substantial risk to the public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, on June 15th, 2020 Missouri Executive Order 20-10 aimed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Missouri expired; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no federal, or state restrictions and few local restrictions in place to slow COVID-19 disease transmission; and

WHEREAS, on June 25th, 2020 the number of positive COVID-19 cases more than tripled in Taney County in the last 30 days following Memorial Day from May 25, 2020 to June 25, 2020; and

WHEREAS, one key transmission method for the COVID-19 virus is through respiratory droplets that people expel when they breathe, speak, cough, or sneeze. Moreover, people can be infected with the COVID-19 virus and be asymptomatic but still be contagious. People can also be infected and contagious 48 hours before developing symptoms when they are pre-symptomatic. Many people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms and do not recognize they are infected and contagious, and they can unintentionally infect others; and

WHEREAS, numerous epidemiologists have insisted that widespread use of a facemask is necessary to prevent the more rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus,

especially when humans gather in groups, and thereby necessary for the safety and health of Taney County citizens, residents, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control has recommended that members of the public, when they need to interact with others outside the home, and especially in settings where many people are present, should cover the mouth and nose to prevent inadvertently spreading COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Taney County Health Department finds therefore, that wearing a face covering, in combination with physical distancing of at least 6 feet and frequent hand-washing, may reduce the risk of transmitting the COVID-19 virus when in public and engaged in necessary activities by reducing the spread of respiratory droplets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the Taney County Health Department Board of Trustees do hereby resolve that:

The Taney County Health Department advocates for the use of face coverings while in any indoor public place to help restrict the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Taney County, MO; and

Decreasing disease transmission with public use of face coverings is vital for preventing large numbers of cases, hospitalizations, deaths, and to prevent overwhelming the local healthcare system; and

The Taney County Health Department has determined that the advisories included in this resolution are necessary to preserve the peace and order of Taney County, MO and to protect life and to promote and preserve public safety and welfare, in particular to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and provide essential protections to Taney County residents and visitors, including but not limited to those who are most vulnerable to infection while still preserving the availability of essential services; and

To protect the well-being of Taney County businesses and preserve our local economy; and

The Taney County Health Department implores Taney County residents and visitors to protect the public's health by wearing face coverings while in any indoor public places to interrupt disease transmission and to protect the public's health.

On this 25th day of June, 2020.

Taney County Health Department Board Chair

Attest: _____,
Taney County Health Department Secretary