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JUN 29 2020

CITY COUNCIL OFFICE

**EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 19
BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE**

WHEREAS, I, Indya Kincannon, Mayor of the City of Knoxville, declared a civil emergency on March 16, 2020, pursuant to TENN. CODE ANN. §§ 38-9-101, *et seq.* and 58-2-110 and Knoxville Code 9-1 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a disease caused by a novel coronavirus, previously unknown in humans, and causes upper-respiratory tract illnesses that can range from mild to severe, spread quickly, and may cause death, particularly in older adults and persons with certain chronic medical conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic as of March 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, states of emergency have also been declared by the President of the United States and the Governor of Tennessee, and continue to exist; and

WHEREAS, as of June 29, 2020, there were at least 40,172 COVID-19 cases in Tennessee, with 912 cases in Knox County resulting from the natural cause of community spread of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor recognizes that it is critical to continue maintaining 6-foot physical distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19, but that the additional use of simple cloth face coverings or masks, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Tennessee Department of Health, can further aid in slowing the spread of the virus by reducing the chances of symptomatic and asymptomatic people transmitting the virus to others; and,

WHEREAS, in reopening certain businesses, places of work, and venues and other activities in the City of Knoxville, it is in the best interest of public health for individuals to continue to use physical distancing and the additional precaution of face coverings or masks while in public contact with other persons; and,

WHEREAS, it continues to be extremely important to protect individuals from contracting the virus; and

WHEREAS, members of households with vulnerable individuals need to use all reasonable precautions to avoid potential exposure to the virus; and,

WHEREAS, the risks of inaction are high for serious and possibly fatal illness for elderly persons and individuals with underlying health conditions, including persons with serious heart conditions; pregnant women; smokers and those with asthma, scarred or damaged lungs or chronic lung disease; diseases that affect blood flow to the brain; cystic fibrosis; high blood pressure; dementia; liver disease; diabetes; obesity; sickle cell disease; and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor finds that it is in the best interest of the public peace, health, welfare, and safety, and to preserve the lives and protect the health of citizens of the City of Knoxville, to require that masks, consisting of at least simple cloth face coverings, be worn by persons when entering buildings or indoor spaces owned, managed, or leased by the City of Knoxville.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, INDYA KINCANNON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE, pursuant to the authority vested in the Mayor under TENN. CODE ANN. §§ 38-9-101,

et seq. and 58-2-110, the Charter of the City of Knoxville § 303(M), and Knoxville Code §§ 9-1, 9-5, and 9-6, and pursuant to the aforesaid powers and the Proclamation of Emergency declared on March 16, 2020 and extended on a number of occasions, **HEREBY DIRECT AND ORDER THE FOLLOWING:**

1. All persons, including City employees, entering a building or indoor space owned, managed, operated, or leased by the City of Knoxville shall wear a cloth face covering or mask. Persons who do not have a cloth face covering or mask will be provided with one at the entrance, subject to availability. Persons who refuse to wear a mask and/or decline the complimentary one offered will be denied entry unless they fall under one of the below-listed exceptions.

A face covering or mask is defined as: A device or material to cover the nose and mouth of a person to impede the spread of saliva or other fluids during speaking, coughing, sneezing or other intentional or involuntary action. Medical grade masks are not required; coverings may be fashioned from scarves, bandanas or other suitable fabrics. The mask must cover the mouth and nose of the wearer.

2. Once a person has entered the building, the person shall continue to wear the cloth face covering or mask while in the building. Should the person remove their cloth face covering or mask while in the building, a representative of the office may ask that person to leave. Employees working alone in their respective offices or workspaces are excepted from this rule and may remove their mask while in their offices or individual workspaces, as long as they are able to maintain appropriate physical distancing. However, employees must be prepared to don and wear a face covering or mask when leaving their offices or individual workspaces, and while interacting with others where physical distancing of more than six (6) feet cannot be consistently maintained.

3. The following exceptions shall apply:

- a. Cloth face coverings or masks are not required to be worn by
 - i. Children under the age of twelve (12),
 - ii. Older children who are unable to wear a mask properly or safely, or
 - iii. Persons with a medical, physiological, or psychological condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering, including persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance. No person declining to wear a cloth face covering or mask because of a medical condition shall be required to produce verifying medical documentation,
 - iv. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and for whom wearing a face covering prevents the use of the person's hearing aid,
 - v. Persons while communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing and for whom the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication, and
 - vi. Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work as determined by local, state, or federal regulations or workplace safety guidelines.

- b. Additional exemptions that do not endanger the public or employees in the building may be allowed based on individual circumstances. Alternatives may vary depending on the office or building and the type of business being transacted.
 4. Persons may request such an exemption by presenting a request to the security officer, facility manager, attendant at the front desk, or other designated person at the entrance of the building or indoor space.
 - a. The person receiving the request will notify the appropriate officials for the office where the requestor seeks to visit.
 - b. A representative of the office will consider the request through a phone or in-person communication with the requester and may permit entry if he or she determines that the circumstances do not endanger the public or employees of the building. The office may refuse entry if a proposed accommodation may pose a danger to the health and safety of the public or employees of the building.
 5. Each City Department is given discretion to design and implement alternative to these directives, in order to appropriately meet the needs of its department while providing reasonable public access to government facilities and services. The alternatives shall be made in consultation with the Department of Health.
 6. Signage consistent with this Order will be clearly and conspicuously posted at every entrance to every building, office or public space owned, managed, operated, or leased by the City of Knoxville.
 7. This Order shall become effective at 8:00 AM on Wednesday July 1, 2020, and continuing until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended.

ORDERED, EFFECTIVE, AND ISSUED:



INDYA KINCANNON
Mayor, City of Knoxville
Date: June 29, 2020