

COMMON COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2020-18

**Endorsing the Elkhart County Health Department's Mandate on Wearing Face Coverings and
Recommending a Reduction in the Maximum Number of Attendees at
Any Private or Public Gathering**

WHEREAS, the City of Goshen Common Council ("Common Council") supports measures to maintain the general well-being of our City and County by:

- A. Protecting the lives of the vulnerable.
- B. Keeping Elkhart County businesses open and Elkhart County residents employed.
- C. Addressing the needs identified by the Elkhart County hospital systems, medical professionals, and business owners, who have asked for Elkhart County to require face coverings.
- D. Assisting the residents and businesses of Elkhart County that jointly share the responsibility of maintaining community health.
- E. Ensuring Elkhart County residents have safe work environments, safe outlets for recreation, and safe environments at home.
- F. Preparing the best means for allowing schools to reopen in the Fall.

WHEREAS, the Common Council recognizes that the data surrounding COVID-19's impact on Elkhart County since businesses began to reopen and social gatherings began to increase in size and frequency suggests that the State could take additional measures to restrict Elkhart County activities in a way that negatively impacts the economy of Elkhart County.

WHEREAS, the following summarizes the changes in Elkhart County's COVID-19 activity since businesses were allowed to begin reopening, and the permitted size and frequency of private and public gatherings increased:

A. On May 1, 2020, Governor Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-26¹, which initiated for Elkhart County Stage 2 of the Governor's plan to reopen businesses and entities and increased the allowed size of private and public gatherings from 10 to 25.

B. On May 1, 2020, Elkhart County had 295 positive COVID-19 cases, representing 1.5% of the total positive COVID-19 cases in the state of Indiana.

C. During the three weeks of Stage 2, Elkhart County more than tripled its COVID-19 positive cases moving from 295 to 895 positive COVID-19 cases on May 21, 2020.

D. The 600 new positive COVID-19 cases in Elkhart County during Stage 2 represented 5.4% of the total new positive COVID-19 cases confirmed throughout the State of Indiana during Stage 2.

E. On May 21, 2020, Governor Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-28, which initiated for Elkhart County Stage 3 of the Governor's plan to reopen businesses and entities and increased the allowed size of private and public gatherings from 25 to 100.

F. During the three weeks of Stage 3, Elkhart County more than doubled its COVID-19 positive cases moving from 895 to 1927 positive COVID-19 cases on June 11, 2020.

G. The 1032 new positive COVID-19 cases in Elkhart County during Stage 3 represented 11.8% of the total new positive COVID-19 cases confirmed throughout the State of Indiana during Stage 3.

H. On June 11, 2020, Governor Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-32, which initiated for Elkhart County Stage 4 of the Governor's plan to reopen businesses and entities and increased the size of private and public gatherings from 100 to 250.

I. Section 3.a of Executive Order 20-32 strongly encourages the use of face coverings by all individuals in the state of Indiana.

J. On June 12, 2020, Elkhart County reported one hundred one (101) new positive cases of COVID-19, the highest one-day number of new cases since testing began.

¹ All references to Executive Orders throughout this Resolution shall refer to executive orders issued by Governor Holcomb.

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2020, Mayor Jeremy Stutsman issued COVID-19 Safe Work Practices guidelines to the City of Goshen Staff, requiring all City Employees to wear a mask whenever social distancing was not possible.


WHEREAS, on June 29, 2020, the Elkhart County Health Department issued Public Health Order No. 01-2020 in which Elkhart County Health Officer Dr. Lydia Mertz **mandates face coverings for every** individual living in, working in, or otherwise entering Elkhart County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Goshen Common Council as follows:

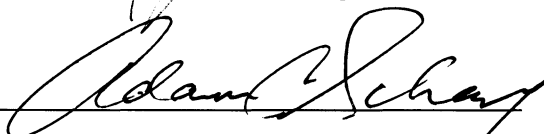
1. The Common Council fully endorses and supports the Elkhart County Health Department's face covering mandate issued by the Elkhart County Health Department on June 29, 2020.
2. Consistent with the mandate, the Common Council expects and encourages all residents and visitors of Elkhart County to fully comply with the mandate and, subject to the exceptions set forth in the Guidance, wear face coverings any time they are at:
 - a. an indoor area open to the public, including public transportation;
 - b. an outdoor public area where a distance of 6 feet from individuals outside of their household cannot be maintained; or
 - c. a private indoor or outdoor area where a distance of 6 feet from individuals outside of their household cannot be maintained.
3. The Common Council supports requiring all employers in Elkhart County to amend their COVID-19 continued operations plan, first mandated in Section 4 of Executive Order 20-26 and still required by Section 5.b of Executive Order 20-32, to require all employees and visitors to wear face coverings in accordance with Public Health Order No. 01-2020.
4. The Common Council reminds all residents that Stage 4 outlined in Executive Order 20-32 still requires individuals entering open businesses and those individuals attending public and private gatherings to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet of separation between all individuals of different households.

5. The Common Council strongly recommends that all private and public gatherings in Elkhart County be limited to 50 people. The one exception to this strong recommendation is for any events that have already received approval from the Elkhart County Health Department after a review of the safety and protective measures established for the event (e.g. graduation ceremonies).

This Resolution is passed by the Common Council of the City of Goshen, Indiana on the 16th day of June, 2020




Jeremy P. Stutsman, Presiding Officer



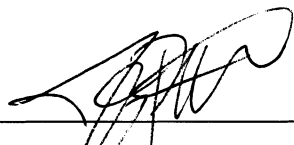
ATTEST: Adam C. Scharf, Clerk-Treasurer

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Goshen, Indiana, on the 9th day of July 2020



Adam C. Scharf, Clerk-Treasurer

This resolution approved and signed by me on the 9th day of July 2020



Jeremy P. Stutsman, Mayor