

**ORDER BY THE MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF TAYLOR**

Whereas, the COVID-19 virus is contagious and spreads through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings; and

Whereas, on March 13, 2020, a Declaration of State of Disaster was issued by Governor Abbott to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Texans; and

Whereas, on March 16, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster was issued to allow the City of Taylor to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Taylor residents; and

Whereas, on March 23, 2020, the declaration was ratified by the City Council of Taylor, Texas and continued until April 22, 2020; and

Whereas, on April 21, 2020, the declaration was continued by the City Council of the City of Taylor until May 31, 2020; and

Whereas, on May 20, 2020, the declaration was continued by the City Council of the City of Taylor until June 30, 2020; and

Whereas, on June 25, 2020, the declaration was continued by the City Council of the City of Taylor until termination of the State of Texas Declaration of Disaster; and

Whereas, on March 31, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-14 ("Governor's Order GA-14") relating to statewide continuity of essential services and activities during the COVID-19 disaster, which provides a uniform statewide approach to certain restrictions and permitted activities, and allows local jurisdictions to enforce the Executive Order as well as local restrictions that are consistent with the Governor's Order; and

Whereas, Governor Abbott clarified that his plan to reopen the Texas economy includes maintaining the authority of local governments to require businesses to adopt and enforce health policies that include face covering requirements; and

Whereas, on July 2, 2020, Governor Abbott issued a statewide order requiring face covering in most cases when inside a commercial entity or other building or space open to

the public or when in an outdoor public space wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household; and

Whereas, infected persons can transmit the COVID-19 virus to others before showing any symptoms, and widespread and consistent use of face coverings over the nose and mouth when in public is a critical and necessary measure to help slow the spread of the virus while allowing local businesses to continue to reopen and help the Taylor economy recover; and

Whereas, the CDC has also issued recommendations and guidance that wearing a fabric face mask outside one's residence is recommended with certain specific exceptions; and

Whereas, on June 29, 2020, Mayor Brandt Rydell issued an order requiring all businesses (including non-profit entities) and commercial entities within the City of Taylor to develop and implement a face covering health and safety policy so long as this Order is in effect; and

Whereas, Mayor Brandt Rydell's order is consistent with the guidelines and face covering order issued by Governor Abbott; and

Whereas, the order effective on Monday, June 29, 2020, was continued five additional 1-month periods to expire December 31, 2020; and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of the public health and safety to extend the Order an additional thirty days.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAYLOR, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER:

The Order of Mayor Brandt Rydell which became effective as of 11:59 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2020 ("Effective Date"), and continued five additional times to expire December 31, 2020, is now **extended through January 31, 2021**, unless extended, modified or terminated early by City of Taylor Mayor Brandt Rydell or as otherwise indicated below:

Section 1. Public Health Emergency. That this Order shall continue the local disaster declaration and public health emergency for the City of Taylor for the period specified in this Order of the Mayor of the City of Taylor and shall incorporate and adopt the most recent executive order GA-26 issued by Governor Greg Abbott on June 3, 2020, and any subsequent orders by the Governor relating to the expanded opening of Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster.

Section 2. Health and Safety Policy - Businesses and Commercial Entities. From the date of this Order, all businesses (including not-for-profit entities) and commercial entities in the City of Taylor must develop and implement a health and safety policy ("**Health and Safety Policy**"). The Health and Safety Policy must require, at a minimum, that all employees or visitors to the business' or commercial entity's premises or other facilities wear face coverings when in an area or performing an activity which will necessarily involve close contact or proximity to co-workers or the public where six feet of separation is not feasible. The Health and Safety Policy required to be developed and implemented by this Order may also include the implementation of other mitigating measures designed to control and reduce the transmission of COVID-19 such as temperature checks or health screenings. Businesses and commercial entities must post the Health and Safety Policy required by this Order in a conspicuous location sufficient to provide notice to employees and visitors of all health and safety requirements. Failure to develop and implement the Health and Safety Policy required by this Order as of 11:59 pm, Tuesday, June 30, 2020, may result in a fine not to exceed \$200.00 for each violation.

A sample Health and Safety Policy and signage containing the minimum requirements of this order is attached as Exhibit A and may be used by a business or commercial entity as its own Health and Safety Policy, and it can include recommended requirements in the Governor's health minimum standard protocols applicable to each business type, and additional requirements as determined by each individual business.

Section 3. Face Coverings - General Public. It is strongly recommended that all people 10 years or older wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in a public place where it is difficult to keep six feet away from other people or working in areas that involve close proximity with other coworkers. The CDC advises face coverings for people 2 years or older. Face coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief. City of Taylor residents should continue to maintain social distancing of at least six feet while outside their home.

Face coverings do not need to be worn in the following circumstances:

- When exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside;
- While driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;

- When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk;
- While pumping gas or operating outdoor equipment;
- While in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening, for example, banks; or
- When consuming food or drink.

Consistent with Executive Order GA-26 issued by Governor Greg Abbott, no civil or criminal penalty will be imposed on individuals for failure to wear a face covering.

Please note that face coverings are a secondary strategy to other mitigation efforts. **Face coverings are not a replacement for social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self-isolation when sick.** All people should follow CDC recommendations for how to wear and take off a mask. Residents should keep up the following habits while in public:

- washing hands before you leave home and when you return;
- staying at least six feet away from others;
- avoiding touching nose or face;
- not using disposable masks more than three times; and
- washing reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus.

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU NOT OBTAIN OR WEAR MEDICAL MASKS OR N-95 RESPIRATORS AS THEY ARE A NEEDED RESOURCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS. Our healthcare workers and first responders on the front-line combating COVID-19 must have priority access to medical masks or other personal protective equipment.

Section 4. Severability. The sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Order are severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Order should be declared invalid by the final judgment or decree of any court or competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections that can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

Section 5. Interpretation and Additional Terms. To the greatest extent possible, this Order shall be interpreted as consistent with and supplemental to any executive order issued by the Texas Governor. All provisions of the executive orders of the Texas Governor either existing or as, if and when issued, which are made applicable to all jurisdictions by law shall be automatically incorporated into and constitute terms of this Order, enforceable as if set forth herein without necessity for the issuance of any further orders.

Section 6. Enforcement. The peace officers, City of Taylor Code Department inspectors, and the Office of the Taylor Fire Marshal, are hereby authorized to enforce this order. A violation of this Order is a violation of Taylor City Code Chapter 6.5.

ORDERED this the 22 day of December, 2020, in the City of Taylor, Williamson County, Texas, in witness whereof I subscribe my name and cause to be affixed the of the City of Taylor.



Brandt Rydell
Mayor, City of Taylor

Filed with me, the City Clerk of the City of Taylor, this 22 day of December, 2020, by Mayor Brandt Rydell, whose signature I hereby attest under my hand and the seal of the City of Taylor.

Rocio Lopez on behalf of
City Clerk Dianna Barker

EXHIBIT A

SAMPLE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY AND SIGNAGE