



CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**PROCLAMATION TO REQUIRE FACE COVERINGS**

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans and can spread from person to person; and,

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the "CDC") has warned of the high public health threat posed by COVID-19 globally and in the United States and has deemed it necessary to prohibit or restrict travel to areas designated by the CDC; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19 under Section 391 of the Public Health Service Act; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency for the State of North Carolina based on the public health emergency posed by COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Mayor declared a State of Emergency for the City of Rocky Mount under the authority granted by Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and Article IV. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rocky Mount; and

**WHEREAS**, health authorities, including the Centers for Disease Control, the Surgeon General of the United States and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services have recommended the use of face coverings as a means of preventing the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 22, 2020, in a regular scheduled City Council meeting, the City Council of the City of Rocky Mount expressed its desire that restrictions be imposed on the activity and actions of persons who do not wear face coverings when the use of such face coverings may protect lives and public health; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the City Council to curtail the spread of COVID-19 within the City of Rocky Mount by requiring the use of face coverings by persons within the City of Rocky Mount, subject to the terms of this proclamation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, C. Saunders Roberson, Jr., Mayor of the City of Rocky Mount, by the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of North Carolina and Article IV. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rocky Mount, do hereby proclaim that:**

**Section 1. Wearing of Face Coverings.** All persons who are present within the jurisdiction of the City of Rocky Mount are required to wear a clean face covering any time they are, or will be, in contact with other people who are not household members in public or private spaces where it is not possible to maintain social distance or where recommended social distancing practices are not being followed. These spaces include grocery stores, pharmacies, business locations, parking lots, sidewalks and public transit. While wearing the face covering, it is essential to still maintain social distance insofar as possible since social distancing is the best defense against the spread of the COVID-19.

A face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand or can be improvised from household items such as scarves, T-shirts, sweatshirts or towels. Social distance, as referenced within this declaration, shall mean the current parameters established by the Governor by Executive Order and by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, including as such parameters may be amended in the future.

Acceptable, reusable face covering options for the general public include bandanas, neck gaiters, homemade face coverings, scarves or tightly woven fabric such as cotton T-shirts and some types of towels. It is not required to wear face coverings during individual exercise outdoors, or while walking or exercising with other people from the same household, as long as social distance from others is maintained.

All restaurant, personal care, grooming, tattoo and retail employees and staff shall wear a face covering while on duty. It is recommended that all businesses require customers to wear a face covering while inside the business. Face coverings are not required:

- For people whose religious beliefs prevent them from wearing a face covering;
- For those who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical or behavioral condition;
- For children under 12 years old;
- For restaurant patrons while they are dining;
- In private, individual offices;
- When complying with directions of law enforcement officers;
- In settings where it is not practical or feasible to wear a face covering, including when obtaining or rendering goods or services, such as the receipt of dental services or while swimming; or
- While with members of a family or the same household.

**Section 2. Applicability.** The requirements established in this declaration shall supplement and be in addition to the other requirements associated with the COVID-19 State of Emergency within the City of Rocky Mount, including, but not limited to any requirements established by Edgecombe or Nash Counties and the State of North Carolina.

**Section 3. Implementation.** The intent of this declaration is to encourage voluntary compliance with the requirements established herein by businesses and persons within the City of Rocky Mount. Law enforcement and other public safety and emergency management personnel are strongly encouraged to educate and encourage voluntary compliance with this order.

**Section 4. Distribution.** I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with City Clerk and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

**Section 5. Effective Date and Time.** This declaration shall take effect Friday, June 26, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Rocky Mount, North Carolina to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June 2020.

ATTEST:

  
Pamela O. Casey  
City Clerk



  
C. Saunders Roberson, Jr.  
Mayor