



The Office of the Mayor

Order Requiring Facial Coverings during Longview City Council Meetings

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, I, Dr. Andy Mack, as Mayor of the City of Longview, Texas, issued a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency for the City of Longview resulting from the global pandemic of the novel coronavirus designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, the conditions necessitating the aforesaid declaration continue to exist; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code §418.108(b), the City Council of the City of Longview, Texas, on March 23, 2020, enacted Ordinance No. 4262 consenting to the renewal and continuation of the declaration of local disaster and public health emergency for the City of Longview, Texas; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the consent granted by the aforesaid Ordinance No. 4262, on March 23, 2020, I, Dr. Andy Mack, as Mayor of the City of Longview, Texas, issued a renewal and continuation of the aforesaid declaration of local disaster and public health emergency; and,

WHEREAS, some individuals who contract the COVID-19 virus have no symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means they may not be aware they carry the virus; and,

WHEREAS, because even people without symptoms can transmit the disease, and because evidence shows the disease is easily spread, gatherings can result in preventable transmission of the virus; and,

WHEREAS, the scientific evidence shows that the use of facial coverings at public gatherings can reduce the risk of transmitting the virus; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Longview has recently resumed in-person Council meetings; and,

WHEREAS, the use of face masks is a simple, low-cost measure that will significantly reduce the risk of transmission of the virus at City Council meetings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY DR. ANDY MACK, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LONGVIEW, TEXAS:

1. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 4262 of the City of Longview, Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code (including without limitation §418.108 and §418.1015 of said chapter) and any other applicable law, it is hereby ordered that persons attending Longview City Council meetings wear a facial covering over mouth and nose.
2. Persons under 10 years of age and persons with health conditions that may be exacerbated by the wearing of a facial covering are not required to wear a facial covering.
3. An individual is not required to wear a facial covering while speaking to the City Council during the time allotted for the person to speak.
4. This order applies only to persons inside the Council Chambers during a meeting of the Longview City Council. The wearing of masks outside the Council Chambers is encouraged but not required.
5. This order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until terminated by order of the Mayor or until the termination of the declaration of local disaster and public health emergency for the City of Longview referenced herein, whichever occurs first.
6. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this order constitutes an imminent threat to public health and a violation of decorum at a public meeting. Any person who fails to comply with this order may be removed from the Council Chambers. Failure to wear a facial covering pursuant to this order shall not be subject to a fine or other criminal penalty.

PROCLAIMED and ORDERED this 22nd day of April, 2021.



Dr. Andy Mack
Mayor