



EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF YAZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI, REQUIRING MASKS AND/OR FACE COVERINGS BE WORN IN PUBLIC PLACES

WHEREAS, as a result of COVID-19, the President of the United States of America has declared a nationwide state of emergency, the Governor of the State of Mississippi has declared that a state of emergency exists in the State of Mississippi, and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Yazoo City, Mississippi, has in accordance with Section 33-15-17(d), Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, declared a local state of emergency as a result of the pandemic created by the novel coronavirus and has limited non-essential gatherings, implemented a curfew, and closed certain businesses; and

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures related to decreasing the spread of COVID-19 remain necessary, unavoidable, and in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Yazoo City, Mississippi, to maintain the life, property, health, safety, welfare, good order, and public peace, of citizens and the City of Yazoo City, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the latest statistics clearly demonstrate that success at controlling the spread of the virus depends upon business and resident compliance with reopening guidelines and restrictions; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by experts indicates that the spread of COVID-19 would be drastically reduced if eighty (80) percent of the population wore a face covering combined with social distancing, hand-washing and other preventive measures; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Yazoo City, Mississippi, hereby find that conditions of extreme peril to the health and safety of persons within the City of Yazoo City, Mississippi, remain as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City of Yazoo City is a small City where more extraordinary measures must continue for the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Yazoo City, Mississippi, especially where social distancing guidelines continue to be ignored; and

WHEREAS, with the number of infections continuing to grow, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Yazoo City, Mississippi, find it in the best interest of the City of Yazoo City, Mississippi, that masks and/or face coverings be worn in all indoor public places within the City of Yazoo City and worn in outdoor public faces where social distancing cannot be utilized within the City of Yazoo City.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that in accordance with the declaration of emergency pursuant to Section 33-15-17(d), Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, in accordance with the authority granted pursuant to Section 45-17-1, *et seq.*, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, and in accordance with the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Yazoo City, Mississippi, and the authority of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of this special charter municipality, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Yazoo City, Mississippi, hereby issue this Emergency

Proclamation requiring masks and/or face coverings be worn by any individual who is over age two (2) and able to medically tolerate a face covering when in an indoor public place and when in an outdoor public place where unable to maintain at least six feet of social distancing.

IT IS ORDERED that from and after adoption of this Emergency Proclamation by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Yazoo City, Mississippi, any individual who is over age two (2) and able to medically tolerate a face covering shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a mask and/or face covering when in an indoor public place and in an outdoor public place when unable to maintain at least six feet of social distancing. Face coverings are required in all public indoor spaces such as any institution, business or educational, refreshment, or entertainment facility, licensed or not, whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations are extended, offered, sold, or otherwise made available to the public. Examples include retail stores, furniture stores, restaurants, government buildings, and service establishments as well as educational institutions, recreational facilities, salons and service centers. A face covering and/or mask shall be considered a device 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, handkerchiefs, or other suitable fabrics.

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

- When exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside where at least six feet of social distancing can be maintained;
- When 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 such as anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance. For purposes of this subsection, "safety risk" shall include external factors, such as, but not limited to: where wearing a face covering may pose a risk to persons working on ladders or at significant heights, wearing other respiratory protection, heavy physical exertion or operating heavy equipment or operating in an environment where a face covering hinders communications. However, employers are encouraged to structure work to promote social distancing and limit close contact as much as possible within workplaces where face coverings may pose such risks;
- When in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening, (for example, banks);
- When working alone in separate office spaces or in non-public workplaces where six feet of social distancing may be consistently maintained; or
- When eating or drinking in public at a restaurant or other food and beverage establishment. A face covering must be worn when entering or exiting any such establishment, and when walking around such establishment and six feet of social distancing cannot be maintained.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all commercial entities, businesses, establishments, restaurants, and others providing goods or services directly to the public must require that all employees, patrons, customers, and visitors to the commercial entity's business premises or other facilities wear masks and/or face coverings when in an area or performing an activity where social distancing of a minimum of six feet cannot be maintained. Such commercial entities and establishments listed in this paragraph must require that all employees, patrons, customers, and visitors wear a mask and/or face covering when entering or exiting any such facility, and when walking around in any such facility and six feet of social distancing cannot be maintained.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Emergency Order be (1) promptly filed with the City Clerk and (2) distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this Emergency Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that violations of this Emergency Order may be subject to misdemeanor prosecution pursuant to Section 45-17-9 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, and the orders of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Yazoo City, Mississippi.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that this Emergency Order shall remain in full force and effect until modified, amended, rescinded, superseded, or terminated due to the expiration or termination of the existing civil emergency by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Yazoo City, Mississippi.

AS APPROVED AND ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF YAZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI, THIS 1st DAY OF JULY, 2020.


DIANE DELAWARE, MAYOR

ATTEST: 
Kaneilia Williams, City Clerk