



## **City of Berlin NEW HAMPSHIRE**

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty

**A RESOLUTION** encouraging the use of face coverings when a social distance of six feet cannot be achieved.

**Resolved by the City Council of the City of Berlin as Follows:**

**WHEREAS**, there is active spread and transmission of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) within the City of Berlin; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to:

- Protect the City's most vulnerable citizens, and
- Ensure that limited healthcare resources are not exceeded, and
- Promote an environment in which students are able to attend in-person classes, and
- Promote an environment in which businesses are able conduct and sustain their day to day operations, and
- Minimize the significant expense of public funds associated with quarantining and isolation of public sector employees, and

**WHEREAS**, Public Health Officials have determined that it is well established that an individual infected with COVID-19 can transmit the disease whether or not they are exhibiting any symptoms (an asymptomatic carrier); and

**WHEREAS**, it is clinically established that the best means of slowing the spread of a virus is through minimizing close personal contact with individuals in a public environment, social/physical distancing, covering one's mouth and nose by wearing a face covering, and frequent and proper hand washing; and

**WHEREAS**, social/physical distancing by keeping a distance of at least six feet between yourself and others also greatly protects against the spread of our respiratory droplets and aerosols, whether an individual is indoors or outdoors; and

**WHEREAS**, face coverings are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings as they reduce the spray of respiratory droplets and aerosols, particularly when combined with social/physical distancing and other sanitary measures such as washing hands or utilizing hand sanitizer; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that the virus which causes COVID-19 spreads very easily and sustainably between people, particularly within indoor environments with limited fresh air exchange but also amongst persons in close physical proximity, indoors or outdoors, who cannot adequately social distance; and

**WHEREAS**, as previously noted, COVID-19 can be spread by people who do not have symptoms (asymptomatic carriers) and therefore are unaware they are infected. It is therefore important that everyone wear face coverings in public settings whether or not they are feeling ill; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Berlin has an interest in protecting all persons within the community from unnecessary exposure to COVID-19 with its risk of contracting a devastating illness that may prove

**A RESOLUTION  
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fatal for our most vulnerable citizens; it follows that the wearing of a face covering under certain circumstances is crucial; and

**WHEREAS**, the more closely a person interacts with others and the longer that interaction occurs, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's Emergency Management COVID Task Force and Health Officer have discussed this matter in detail while keeping current with the latest guidelines put forward by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other trustworthy organizations and recommend the following emergency declaration; and

**WHEREAS**, because COVID-19 presents a clear and present danger to the general Berlin population it behooves the community for the City Council to take this emergency measure encouraging the wearing of face coverings in certain situations to protect the public health.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Berlin, through the City Council resolves that persons are encouraged to wear facial coverings under the conditions listed below within the City of Berlin.

**WEARING OF FACIAL COVERINGS IN THE CITY OF BERLIN:**

1. Employees of all businesses are encouraged to wear a face covering over their mouth and nose when interacting with the public and whenever they are within six feet of a co-worker or a customer.
2. Members of the public entering any business, including without limitation any outdoor area where business of any sort is conducted, work site, or government building are encouraged to wear a face covering, such as a fabric mask, scarf, or bandana over their nose and mouth.
3. Members of the public entering a restaurant for the purpose of picking up food for take-out or any other purpose are encouraged to wear a face covering over their mouth and nose. Members of the public dining indoors or outdoors at a restaurant may remove face covering while seated at their table.
4. Residents, visitors, and members of the public entering or present at a residential or commercial building complex of greater than two (2) units are encouraged to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth while in common areas and communal spaces.
5. As used herein "face covering" means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers only the nose, mouth, and surrounding areas of the lower face. A face covering may be factory made or homemade and improvised from ordinary household material.
6. Notwithstanding the above this Resolution does not address children under 4 years of age to wear face covering (parents should make their own judgment). Face covering is not recommended for children less than 2 years of age.
7. A face covering is optional for a person if said person can show a medical professional has advised that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to said person for health related reasons

This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.

PASSED: \_\_\_\_\_  
November 16, 2020

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable Mayor Paul Grenier

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shelli Fortin, City Clerk