

FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

The Mayor of the City of Lovejoy (hereinafter "City") so declares:

WHEREAS, beginning in late 2019, the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, SARS-CoV-2, emerged causing a novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19, which has become a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, the Governor of the State of Georgia declared that a Public Health State of Emergency exists in the State of Georgia due to the national emergency from the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the President of the United States in conjunction with the CDC issued Coronavirus Guidelines for America; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Governor began to issue several Executive Orders which required that certain specific higher risk populations to isolate, quarantine, or shelter in place; and that required a maximum capacity of social gatherings; and that required social distancing of at least six (6) feet apart; and

WHEREAS, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health COVID-19 update, 2,735 individuals in Georgia have died and 72,800 have been confirmed as having contracted COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, public health experts, including those at the Center for Disease Control ("CDC") and the National Institutes of Health ("NIH"), have advised that individuals infected with COVID-19 are contagious even while experiencing minor or no symptoms and implored leaders to take immediate action to prevent further community spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, preventing and slowing community spread of COVID-19 provides health systems additional time to obtain personal protective equipment necessary to protect health care workers and medical equipment necessary to treat COVID-19, and is therefore vital to the health of the nation; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has described the symptoms of COVID-19 as including fever, cough and shortness of breath which may occur 2-14 days after exposure (www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms) and has also recommended maintaining physical separation of no less than six (6) feet between persons and urged that any gathering of over 10 people be discontinued or prohibited (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/retirement/guidance-retirement-response.html); and

WHEREAS, the numbers across the state and country had decreased but have since risen in the last few weeks; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and public health officials project that additional cases of COVID-19 will increase over the next few months; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the City of Lovejoy to reduce exposure; and

WHEREAS, to prevent or minimize injury to people resulting from this pandemic, I, Mayor of the City of Lovejoy find that certain actions are required; and

WHEREAS, based upon available information from the CDC, the Georgia Department of Public Health, and County health partners concerning the spread of COVID-19 and available resources, I as Mayor find that it is necessary to strongly urge individuals present within the jurisdiction of the City of Lovejoy 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 method to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible; and

WHEREAS, a face covering is defined as a material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or 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 scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

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 are urged to 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.

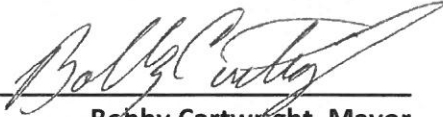
- For those who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical or behavioral condition.
- For children under 12 years old.
- For restaurant patrons while they are dining.
- In private, individual offices.
- When complying with directions of law enforcement officers.
- In settings where it is not practical 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.
- While with members of a family or the same household.

WHEREAS, the intent of this declaration is to encourage voluntary compliance with the requirements established herein by businesses and persons within the City of Lovejoy. Law enforcement and other public safety and emergency management personnel are strongly encouraged to educate and encourage voluntary compliance with this order.

WHEREAS, I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be distributed to the public in any available means to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with City Clerk; to (c) to be posted at City Hall and other government facilities, and (d) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

WHEREAS, this declaration shall take effect at 12 a.m. on July 1, 2020 and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

SO DECLARED, this the 29th day of June, 2020, at 4:00pm.



Bobby Cartwright, Mayor
City of Lovejoy, Georgia