



NEWS RELEASE
Department of Communications

City of South Fulton Government

MEDIA CONTACT:

Gary Leftwich

Interim Director of Communications and External Affairs

470-825-1950 (cell) - gary.leftwich@cityofsouthfultonga.gov

5440 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW Atlanta, GA 30336

www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov

<https://twitter.com/COSFGA>

City of South Fulton Approves Mandate Requiring the Wearing of Masks

(CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GA – July 8, 2020) – As the number of new COVID-19 cases in Georgia continues to climb by the thousands each day – reaching more than 100,000 this week – City of South Fulton officials passed an emergency ordinance today requiring people to wear masks while in public.

The measure takes effect July 11 and will expire in 30 days, unless extended by the council.

“As the numbers continue to grow dramatically across the state and here in Fulton County, we each must do everything in our power to slow the spread of COVID-19,” said Mayor William “Bill” Edwards. “That includes wearing a mask and continuing to practice social distancing whenever we are in a public place. It’s not hard to do and it ensures our own safety and the wellbeing of others. It’s the right thing to do.”

Under the ordinance, customers, visitors and delivery persons entering commercial establishments in the city must wear masks or facial coverings. In addition, business owners and managers are required to ensure employees, contractors and other agents wear face coverings when they are involved face-to-face interactions with the public. Business owners can be fined if employees have face-to-face contact with the public without a mask.

The ordinance also applies to people in general – indoors or outside – who are within six feet of others with whom they do not live.

The measure does provide exceptions. It not apply to those 10 years old and younger and those unable to safely wear face coverings because of age, underlying medical conditions or an inability to remove masks without the assistance of others. It makes exceptions for when people are in residential homes, personal vehicles and commercial vehicles with others with whom they live. Other exceptions include people in religious and education institutions.

People also are exempt when they are eating, drinking or smoking or when receiving medical or personal services that require the removal of masks.

Penalties for violating the ordinance include a warning for the first offense, with the officer providing a complimentary mask, and a \$100 fine for each subsequent violation. The clerk of Municipal Court can dismiss a second-violation case if the person charged demonstrates he or she has a mask.

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