

Jonathan Delagrave, County Executive

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2020-41, and pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.17(2)(a) and Section 6-116(15) of the Racine County Code of Ordinances, the Racine County Executive is authorized to coordinate and direct administrative and management functions of the county government and to administer the county government effectively to meet emergency response needs; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised entities to take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19, including social distancing and the use of face coverings or masks in public settings; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is transmitted mainly by people interacting in close proximity with each other; and

WHEREAS, a recent Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (July 14, 2020/69) pointed to the use of face coverings as an important tool to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, many people with COVID-19 infection are asymptomatic or presymptomatic yet highly contagious and these people account for a substantial fraction of all transmissions; and

WHEREAS, masking helps to prevent such people from spreading virus-laden secretions, whether they recognize that they are infected or not; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2020, the Racine County Executive issued a memorandum for County employees and contractors directing the use of cloth facemasks or coverings within County facilities and workspaces; and

WHEREAS, by order of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, dated May 22, 2020, “all persons who are present in courtrooms, jury rooms, and other court-related confined spaces shall wear face coverings, unless a judge specifically determines on the record that it is necessary for a witness not to wear a face covering during the witness’s testimony in order for the judge or jury to weigh the witness’s credibility;” and

WHEREAS, it is now necessary to expand the May 20th directive to require the use of face coverings or masks by service users, visitors, and members of the general public, along with employees and contractors; and

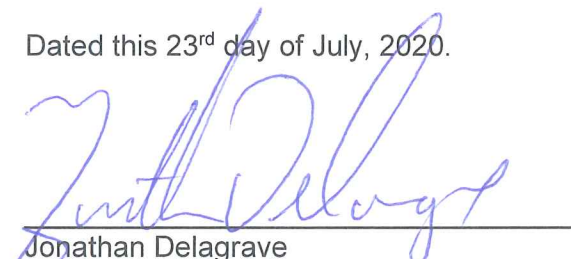
WHEREAS, this policy is an important component of Racine County’s COVID-19 risk mitigation and response efforts and does not eliminate the need to physically distance from each other; and

WHEREAS, this policy is in recognition not only that the use of face coverings may prevent the spread of COVID-19 but that individuals in need of critical in-person services (e.g., therapy sessions, job center, etc.) at County facilities may otherwise not avail themselves of those services absent a face covering directive.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave, order the following:

1. This order pertains only to Racine County owned buildings and spaces leased by Racine County.
2. Effective immediately, all persons seeking entry to or occupying Racine County facilities must wear a face covering or mask in the public areas of the buildings for the safety of our employees and members of the general public. Public areas include, but are not limited to, the atrium/lobby, elevator banks, stairwells, restrooms, public corridors, and office counters. The only persons exempted from this requirement are those under the age of 5 and those who provide documentation that for medical reasons, they are unable to wear a face covering.
3. All persons seeking entry to Racine County facilities are strongly encouraged to bring their own face covering or mask. Persons who do not bring their own face covering or masks may obtain a disposable mask at the public entrance while supplies last; supplies will be limited. Any person who declines or refuses to wear a face covering and does not have documentation showing that they are unable to do so for medical reasons will be denied entry to the building. Such persons may contact by telephone the agency or office they intend to visit to explore alternatives to entering the facility.
4. This will remain in effect until further notice.

Dated this 23rd day of July, 2020.



Jonathan Delagrave
Racine County Executive