



# CITY OF CENTERVILLE

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## PROCLAMATION

### **EMERGENCY AND PUBLIC DANGER RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19**

*IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF  
THE CITY OF CENTERVILLE, IOWA*

WHEREAS, the Governor of Iowa has issued multiple proclamations, most recently on November 10, 2020, determining that a state of emergency or public danger continues to exist and imposing restrictions on businesses and the public as more particularly set forth therein and encouraging the use of masks or face coverings in public settings; and

WHEREAS, the White House Coronavirus Task Force, as of October 25, 2020, continued to list Iowa in the task force-defined "red zone" as Iowa consistently falls within the top 10 states for highest case rate in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, City of Centerville accounts for approximately 43 percent of the Appanoose County population, in which the number of new cases has dramatically increased in recent weeks, putting increased strains on the health care system and Emergency Services, and increasing the danger to residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, many businesses have reopened, some large events and gatherings have recommenced, and schools have reopened, allowing some semblance of normalcy, but at the same time increasing the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, according to the Iowa Department of Public Health ("IDPH") hospitalizations in Iowa have increased dramatically since the summer and the City's active cases of COVID-19 have increased approximately 300% from Halloween weekend to the time of the drafting of this Proclamation (from 86 to 257 active cases); and

WHEREAS, today, the MercyOne in Centerville has reported to the City that the hospital is at capacity due to the dramatic increase in COVID-19 active cases and, yesterday, the regional Des Moines hospitals reported that they are at capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention ("CDC") and the Iowa Board of Medicine have determined that face coverings are a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19 that could reduce the spread of the virus, particularly when used universally within communities and the Iowa Board of Medicine issued a face mask advisory on August 24, 2020, noting that masks are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings; and

WHEREAS, the IDPH's reopening guidance recommends the use of cloth face coverings when social distancing is not possible because wearing face coverings in public places where social distancing measures are difficult (like grocery stores and pharmacies) can help slow the spread of COVID-19; and

when public danger exists.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FORGOING AND OTHER VALID EMERGENT CONCERNS, I, MICHAEL O'CONNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CENTERVILLE, PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING:

I determine that the state of emergency or public danger determined to exist in the Governor's proclamation of November 10, 2020, and prior Governor Proclamations, continues to exist and that the guidance referenced herein from the CDC is appropriate and instructional and that the Governor's prohibitions and requirements are legal and binding.

1. State of Emergency. Consistent with the authority granted me by the Iowa Code referenced above, I declare a state of emergency or public danger in the City of Centerville, Iowa due to COVID-19.
2. Strong Recommendation to Wear Masks. In order to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the City, I strongly recommend that all persons in the City of Centerville wear a face covering such as a cloth mask, surgical mask or similar covering that covers their nose and mouth when in a public place.
3. Warning as to Mask Mandate. As mentioned above, MercyOne Centerville hospital and the Des Moines regional hospitals are at capacity. If the spread of COVID-19 in Centerville, Iowa continues to threaten the life, health and safety of the citizens and businesses in Centerville, I may be forced in the near future to require a mask mandate.
4. General. This Proclamation of emergency and public danger is part of an ongoing response of the City of Centerville to protect public health, welfare and safety and may be modified or superseded with more restrictive proclamations at any time as circumstances warrant and in all other respects and purposes.

Proclaimed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020, effective as of 5:00 p.m. on the 10th day of November, 2020, and expiring the 31st day of December, 2020 unless otherwise modified or amended by subsequent proclamation, by the Authority vested in me by the Code of Iowa and the City of Centerville Municipal Code.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Seal of the City of Centerville to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.



Michael O'Connor, Mayor