

RESOLUTION No.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE
STORY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH FACE COVERING REGULATION**

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a national public health emergency related to the dangers posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States signed an emergency disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act authorizing emergency response measures in all fifty states in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor of Iowa issued a Proclamation of Public Health Disaster Emergency after multiple cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in Iowa and the Iowa Department of Public Health determined that community spread was occurring within the state; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 135.140 defines a public health disaster as a disaster which specifically involves an imminent threat of an illness that poses a high probability of widespread exposure to an infectious agent that poses a significant risk of future harm to a large number of the affected population; and

WHEREAS, all available information indicates that COVID-19 continues to pose a substantial widespread risk of infection leading to a significant risk of harm to the population of Story County; and

WHEREAS, August has brought the return to Story County thousands of students to attend the Iowa State University, and the return of children to school which will further increase the risk of spread of the virus within our community; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has 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

WHEREAS, the Governor's current proclamation requires that businesses and gatherings ensure social distancing of employees, customers, and attendees, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with the guidance of the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH); and

WHEREAS, the IDPH's reopening guidance advises that members of the public consider the use of face coverings when distancing is not possible because wearing face coverings in public places where social distancing measures are difficult (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies) can help slow the spread of COVID-19, and refers the public to the "local public health agency, the appropriate regulating agency or professional association" with questions about how to implement its guidance; and

WHEREAS, a requirement that persons wear face coverings is consistent with the Governor's proclamation, the guidance of the IDPH and the CDC; and

WHEREAS, a requirement that persons in Story County wear face coverings is essential to reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19, and necessary to protect the health, welfare and safety of residents and visitors and accelerate local recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Story County Board of Health enacted a face covering regulation on _____, 2020, and has submitted such regulation to the Story County Board of Supervisors for approval pursuant to Iowa Code 137.104 (1)(b)(2); now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Story County Board of Supervisors in response to this ongoing public health emergency approves the following Story County Board of Health regulation to mandate the wearing of face coverings in public places:

ATTEST:

Linda Murken, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

Lucy Martin, Auditor
Story County, Iowa

DRAFT