

Press Release

Contact:

Dawn Jenich
Manager, Communication and Marketing
847-949-3227

For Immediate Release

Mundelein Mayor Issues Executive Order Requiring Face Coverings in Mundelein

Mundelein, IL---4-21-2020—To address the health threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and in an effort to implement all available measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within the Village of Mundelein; and to protect healthcare workers, first responders, and all essential workers, Mayor Steve Lentz has issued an Executive Order effective Thursday, April 23 at 12:01 a.m. requiring all individuals, living, working, or visiting in Mundelein to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth while working at or patronizing a business open to the public and when using public transportation. Failure to comply with the Executive Order requiring a face covering, business owners or operators may refuse admission or service to any individual not in compliance.

Residents do not need to cover their faces in their cars, homes, or when outdoors. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under the age of 5. This Executive Order is in addition to the need for strict social distancing practices and adherence to Illinois' "Stay at Home" order. This order complies with CDC guidelines recommending everyone wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and the like.

"Given that there is neither a tested and effective vaccine nor proven therapeutic treatment available for COVID-19, we have elected to follow the recommendations of the experts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Village and to further protect the residents of the Village from disease and death," explains Mayor Steve Lentz.

Face coverings are NOT necessary in the following circumstances:

- Outdoor activity such as walking, running, biking, or other solitary physical activity while at the same time practicing social or physical distancing of at least six feet apart from others.
- Riding in a personal vehicle.
- While drinking or eating.
- When alone or with household members in a separate single space; and
- When doing so poses a greater health, safety, or security risk to the individual or the public.

In Section 2: Face Covering Required of the Executive Order states, *"All persons over the age of five (5) are required to wear face coverings to include their nose and mouth made of any cloth or other material which is reasonable designed and made to inhibit, filter or restrict the breath, sneeze, or cough or other exhaling from*

one's nose and mouth, including but not limited to a non-medical grade mask, cloth or plastic mask, scarf, bandana or handkerchief while engaging in contact with the public at essential businesses."

"The CDC has provided clear cut guidance regarding how to stop the spread of the coronavirus. The scientists have stated that if you cannot social distance comfortably, wearing some type of face covering better protects everyone from the virus," Mayor Lentz adds.

Per CDC guidelines, cloth masks should:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face,
- Be secured with ties or ear loops,
- Include multiple layers of fabric,
- Allow for breathing without restriction and
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

The Mayor's issuance of this Executive Order is based on recommendations from the leading health experts. The World Health Organization (**WHO**) has indicated that COVID-19 is spread primarily by respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes and droplets can also be generated by talking, laughing, or exhaling.

Additionally, the Center for Disease Control (**CDC**) has stated that people experiencing no symptoms can spread COVID-19 more widely than previously thought, and that people are the most contagious before they start showing symptoms. Therefore, on April 3, 2020, the CDC issued a recommendation for all individuals to wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

Then, on April 10, 2020, the U.S. Surgeon General recommended that individuals wear face coverings because he concluded that there is a significant amount of asymptomatic spread of COVID-19.

The Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases also has recommended that individuals wear facial coverings to prevent individuals from infecting others.

"Like all the other physical distancing measures, including the closure of schools, parks, and all non-essential businesses, implementing the mandatory face masks in certain locations benefits the well-being of the entire community. In these trying times, more than ever we need to watch out for each other," Mayor Lentz concludes.

The Executive Order is in effect until further notice.