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City of Beachwood Requires Facial Coverings in Indoor Areas

BEACHWOOD, Ohio –July 6, 2020– People can do four things to prevent the spread of coronavirus: thoroughly and frequently wash their hands, practice social distancing, get tested for COVID-19, and wear a face mask.

To help limit the spread of the coronavirus, tonight the Council of the City of Beachwood voted to mandate the wearing of facial coverings (face masks) in Beachwood-based indoor areas accessible to the public.

“This is a public health requirement in the midst of the largest public health crisis of our lifetime,” said Council President James Pasch. “There is nothing more important than our health, and science shows that a simple face mask helps blunt the spread of the virus. It is incumbent on all of us, not just to look after ourselves, but also our neighbors, friends and entire community. If we all wear masks, we will all be safer. We must do our small part to save lives.”

Facial-Covering Requirements

As defined in Exhibit A of the ordinance, “facial covering” means “a covering of the nose, mouth and chin that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is simply wrapped around the lower face.”

All customers must wear facial coverings while they are:

- inside a retail business establishment;
- in restaurants and bars when not at their table;
- in office spaces open to the public when they are inside the establishment;
- in any personal care and grooming businesses. While in a personal care and grooming business, “customers may take off their Facial Covering if they are receiving a facial treatment, shave, or other services on a part of the head which the Facial Covering covers or by which the Facial Covering is secured,” according to the ordinance.

Businesses are granted the right to refuse service to patrons not wearing face masks.

Exceptions to the facial-covering mandate are listed in the final approved ordinance, which will be available soon on the City’s website. People who do not follow the ordinance and

who lack an exception will initially receive a verbal warning, to be followed by an \$85.00 civil penalty for any subsequent violations.

Anyone who declines to wear a facial covering for any reason while in Beachwood is not exempt from the requirement to practice adequate social distancing, keeping a minimum of six feet between them and any other person outside of their household.

“If you’re outside in Beachwood, running errands or visiting someone who isn’t part of your quarantine household, please: wear a mask,” said Mayor Martin Horwitz. “We want our residents, employees and visitors to stay healthy and wear face masks to promote the continued health of our city.”

About the City of Beachwood, OH

Founded as a village in 1915, the City of Beachwood was incorporated in 1960. Conveniently located along Interstate 271, Beachwood is home to nearly 12,000 residents and 2,500 companies. It was named “#1 Place to Live in Cuyahoga County” by *Cleveland Magazine* in 2017 and has secured a top-three ranking three times in the past four years. Beachwood is well-known for its excellent city services, recreation facilities, highly rated schools, and low property taxes. Its diversity of residents is more than four times the Ohio state average. For more information about living and working in Beachwood, visit www.BeachwoodOhio.com.

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