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March 4, 2021

**EMERGENCY REGULATIONS FOR WEARING FACE COVERINGS  
IN CITY BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES**

**WHEREAS**, by proclamation issued March 12, 2020, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the Mayor declared a state of local disaster for the City of Dallas resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, by proclamation issued March 19, 2020, the state of local disaster was extended to April 29, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, by proclamation issued April 22, 2020, the state of local disaster was extended to May 12, 2020, and continuing concurrently thereafter with the Governor's state of disaster;

**WHEREAS**, Governor Greg Abbott by Executive Order GA-34, issued March 2, 2021, reopened Texas on a statewide basis effective March 10, 2021;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order GA-34 strongly encourages every person (including individuals, businesses, and other legal entities) to use good-faith efforts and available resources to follow the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) health recommendations in providing or obtaining services;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order GA-34 does not preclude businesses or other establishments, including local government buildings, to require employees and customers to follow additional hygiene measures, including the wearing of a face covering;

**WHEREAS**, Texas Government Code Section 418.1015 states that the Mayor, as the presiding officer of the governing body of the City of Dallas, is designated as the emergency

management director and serves as the Governor's designated agent in the administration and supervision of duties under Chapter 418, including exercising the powers granted to the Governor under Chapter 418 on an appropriate local scale; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the following regulations shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on March 10, 2021, and shall continue until they are either rescinded, superseded, or amended or until they expire pursuant to applicable law.

**SECTION 1. FACE COVERING REQUIREMENT IN CITY BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES.**

(a) In general. Except as provided in this section:

(1) Because an infected person can transmit the COVID-19 virus to others before showing any symptoms, all persons over the age of two, must, to the greatest extent possible, wear some form of covering over their nose and mouth, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief, while inside any city building or facility.

(2) Any person not wearing a face covering shall be denied permission to enter any city building or facility and a legally authorized official may act to enforce trespassing laws and remove persons from the city building or facility if a person is violating this emergency regulation.

(b) Exceptions. This section does not apply to:

(1) any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering; or

(2) a person expressly exempted by a city policy applicable to the premises or facility.

(c) Posting requirement. Signs must be prominently posted at each city building or facility advising the public that a face covering is required while on the premises of the building or facility.

**SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY.**

If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this regulation or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then that decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this regulation.

**SECTION 3. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

That all ordinances of the City of Dallas and the Dallas City Code, as amended, shall remain in full force and effect, save and except as amended by these Emergency Regulations.

**SECTION 4. PENALTIES.**


(a) Except as provided in this section, this emergency regulation shall have the effect of an ordinance when duly filed with the city secretary.

(b) There is no criminal or civil penalty for violation of this emergency regulation.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

These regulations shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on March 10, 2021, and shall continue until it is either rescinded, superseded, or amended or until it expires pursuant to applicable law.

CITY OF DALLAS

BY:   
ERIC JOHNSON  
Emergency Management Director

Passed: MAR - 4 2021



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CHRISTOPHER J. CASO  
City Attorney

BY:   
Assistant City Attorney