



EMERGENCY DECLARATION REGARDING FACE COVERINGS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

In a continued effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, a Declaration of Emergency regarding face coverings and masks has been signed into effect as of 12:01am, Thursday, September 17. This declaration will remain in effect for a 30-day period. The following guidelines and/or restrictions apply:

- All indoor public places must require those present to wear a mask. If a 6-foot distance can be maintained from customers and other employees, i.e., an individual office, then a mask is not required. There are additional exceptions as follows:
 - Persons under the age of 5 or those who are developmentally unable to comply
 - Persons who have physical disabilities that prevent them from wearing or taking off a face covering or mask or prevent them from communicating while wearing a face covering or mask
 - Persons who have a medical condition that is exacerbated by wearing a face covering or mask
 - Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication
 - Persons who engage in consuming food while seated in a restaurant or bar
 - Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering or mask is necessary to perform the service
- Business owners and managers are responsible for ensuring employees and customers wear masks or face coverings.
- Face coverings are not required in outdoor spaces.
- Face coverings continue to be required in indoor retail stores with 10,000 square feet of indoor space.

- For restaurants, bars and taverns, persons who are seated are not required to wear a mask. Customers should wear a mask when they enter and leave the premises.

Additional information can be obtained by calling the St. Joseph Health Department at 816.271.4636.

The Declaration of Emergency can be found on the city's website at stjoemo.org.

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