



**TETON COUNTY, IDAHO ORDINANCE NO. 2021-0428**

**AN ORDINANCE STRONGLY RECOMMENDING FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC PLACES THAT RECINDS ORDINANCE NO. 2020-0810 ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR FACE COVERINGS FOR INDIVIDUALS**

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SAR-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person-to-person; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulation Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern; and

**WHEREAS**, the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that people are most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest) however some spread might be possible before people show symptoms although that is not the main way the virus spreads; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Idaho Governor Brad Little signed a declaration of emergency for the State of Idaho in response to concerns that cases of COVID-19 are imminent in Idaho; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners enacted a Resolution declaring that a local disaster exists in Teton County due to the COVID-10 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, those disaster declarations were followed by several emergency State orders and a Teton County Resolution that restricted travel, business, trades, and activities in order to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Teton County; and

**WHEREAS**, infection rates in Idaho have seen a downward trend, and have begun to stabilize in Teton County partially due to the recent vaccination program.

**WHEREAS**, the risk of community spread throughout Teton County imperils public health by the person-to-person spread of COVID-19, therefore it is necessary to continue an effort to reduce opportunities for the person-to-person transmission of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, CDC recommends fully vaccinated and non-vaccinated people wear face coverings in public when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, and the Eastern Idaho Public Health and Teton Valley Health management and medical staff have recommended the use of face coverings to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, wearing face coverings is an effective, inexpensive, and simple method of lessening community spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a continuing and urgent need to protect all residents, employees, and visitors in Teton County from the risks relating to the COVID-19 pandemic through the protection provided by wearing facial coverings.

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved and declared by the Teton County Board of County Commissioners as follows:

**Section 1. RESCINDING PRIOR ORDINANCE NO. 2020-0810**

The Board of County Commissioners hereby rescinds Teton County Ordinance NO. 2020-0810 which had set forth mandatory face coverings throughout Teton County.

**Section 2. FACE COVERINGS STRONGLY RECOMENDED**

Because some residents have chosen not to be vaccinated at this time, and there is a small chance of contracting the virus even when fully vaccinated, community members are strongly encouraged to continue wearing masks, avoiding large indoor gatherings, and staying 6 feet apart when in public spaces.

Property owners, business proprietors, or persons responsible for the oversight of any private or public property may choose to still require that face coverings be worn on their premises, and must post notice or signage to indicate accordingly. Customers and patrons are strongly encouraged to be respectful of businesses and property owner's requests to wear masks. The Sheriff's Office can be called upon in the event of issues with non-compliance of mask requirements.

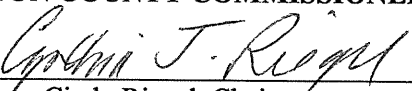
Every provider of short-term lodging, including hotels, lodges, Airbnb/VRBO, or similar overnight facilities, shall notify incoming guests of this Ordinance prior to arrival and upon arrival, and advise them that face coverings are still strongly recommended.

**Section 3. EMERGENCY, EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEAL**

The Board of County Commissioners hereby finds that a current danger still exists due to the spread of a contagious disease however, with the continued local vaccination program underway, this Ordinance upon its passage and posting in five public places pursuant to Idaho Code Section 31-715 shall remove the mandatory face coverings required throughout Teton County. This Ordinance shall remain in effect until it is repealed by the Board of County Commissioners.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** by the County Commissioners on this 28th day of April, 2021.

**TETON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By:   
Cindy Riegel, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Kim Keeley, County Clerk