

CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA
RESOLUTION CY22-08

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF GUSTAVUS RESCINDING MASK-WEARING
REQUIREMENTS FOR CITY FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, the Gustavus City Council in May 2021, adopted CY21-07, *A Resolution Updating the Requirement of Wearing Cloth Face Masks or Face Shields*; and,

WHEREAS, the Gustavus City Council in January 2022, adopted CY22-01, *A Resolution Requiring Protective Facemask-Wearing Inside Enclosed City-owned Buildings*; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, and risks change with time; and,

WHEREAS, Resolutions CY21-07 and CY 22-01 were intended as temporary guidance for the citizens of Gustavus and for the administration of the City of Gustavus directing public health protective measures appropriate to the evolving pandemic risk; and,

WHEREAS, Resolution CY22-01 required the mayor to monitor pandemic risk levels and recommendations of Federal and State of Alaska public health departments and to report to the City Council monthly regarding pandemic risk assessments and public health recommendations. In reporting, the mayor was to recommend whether to continue or adjust the protective mask-wearing requirement for City-owned facilities.; and,

WHEREAS, Resolution CY22-01 provided for the Gustavus City Council to repeal the resolution and the mask-wearing requirement when it determines that the risk of SARS-CoV-2 virus transmission within City-owned facilities is sufficiently low, and that mask wearing is no longer needed; and

WHEREAS, the mayor's risk assessment, attached, for April 2022 finds the Covid-19 pandemic risk has declined steadily and substantially nationally, in Alaska, and in our census district since early January 2022; and

WHEREAS, the risk of transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus within the Community of Gustavus generally and within City-owned buildings specifically appears to be low; and,

WHEREAS, the mayor has reviewed the risk assessment with city staff and has achieved consensus in support; and,

WHEREAS, the Covid-19 pandemic has nevertheless not disappeared, and some residents remain at elevated risk due to age or medical vulnerabilities; and,

WHEREAS, as the virus continues to evolve, more serious variants may appear, and serious local outbreaks remain possible; and

WHEREAS, high quality protective masks such as those rated N95, or KN95, worn as “one-way-masking protection” are an effective means of reducing exposure potential for wearers with concerns or vulnerabilities to Covid-19.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Gustavus City Council concurs with the mayor’s assessment that the Covid-19 pandemic risk has declined steadily and substantially nationally, in Alaska, and in our census district specifically since early January 2022. The Council hereby determines that the risk of SARS-CoV-2 virus transmission within City-owned facilities is sufficiently low that obligatory mask-wearing is no longer needed. The requirements of Resolutions CY21-07 and CY22-01 are hereby rescinded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following protective measures shall remain in effect:

1. City staff and residents with concerns or vulnerabilities to Covid-19 are encouraged to don protective masks whenever they personally feel necessary.
2. Staff members are encouraged to be thoughtful toward each other and toward vulnerable members of the public and to accommodate the health-protective needs of others even to the point of personally donning a facemask as appropriate.
3. The City shall continue to offer optional channels for public service delivery, such as curbside service and online meeting participation, for those preferring them to in-person service.
4. The City shall work to improve city building heating and ventilation systems to increase outside air exchange and reduce indoor aerosols to minimize pathogen transmission.
5. The City shall continue through the summer visitor season to offer ample opportunities for free covid testing for travelers and for anyone else with concern about possible exposure.
6. Should a significant outbreak of the virus occur with community spread; the mayor is authorized to reinstate obligatory mask-wearing in City-owned buildings for a period not to exceed two weeks.

PASSED and **APPROVED** by the Gustavus City Council this XXth day of April 2022, and effective upon adoption.

Mike Taylor, Mayor

Attest: Karen Platt CMC, City Clerk