

**CITY OF GUSTAVUS
RESOLUTION CY22-01**

**A RESOLUTION REQUIRING PROTECTIVE FACE MASK WEARING INSIDE ENCLOSED
CITY-OWNED BUILDINGS**

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

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

WHEREAS, substantial or high levels of COVID-19 transmission are occurring throughout much of Alaska and dozens of Alaskans are hospitalized with COVID-19 each week; and,

WHEREAS, the posted Alaska Statewide Pandemic Alert Level as of January 1, 2022, was High (Red) with a case rate of 139.9 cases per 100,000 population; and,

WHEREAS, the posted Pandemic Alert Level for our census area as of January 1, 2022, was High (Red) with a case rate of 339.9 cases per 100,000 (acknowledging small-population effect); and,

WHEREAS, two new cases were posted for Gustavus on December 31, 2021, and one more on January 4, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2022, both the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services continued to recommend protective mask wearing in public spaces as an essential measure to reduce the potential for virus transmission during the pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, Resolution CY21-07 authorized City department heads to determine mask-wearing requirements for people inside their managed facilities; and,

WHEREAS, mask wearing is commonly required in Alaska and nationally in airports, on planes and other public transportation, in public buildings, in stores, and in private businesses; and,

WHEREAS, employees and volunteer staff in City facilities have been challenged by some argumentative members of the public demanding to exemption from the mask-wearing requirements set by those departments; and,

WHEREAS, a universal policy regarding mask-wearing expectations in City-owned facilities would provide clarity and authority for such measures; and,

WHEREAS, confident predictions for pandemic evolution are not yet possible, but changing pandemic conditions and infection risk reasonably suggest frequent re-assessment of Alaska and local risk for opportunities to adjust or eliminate mitigation measures for City facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gustavus has proprietary jurisdiction and authority over City-owned facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gustavus has the legal responsibility and authority to maintain healthy workplace conditions for staff, volunteers, and their families, and for members of the public entering City facilities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. Protective masks covering nose and mouth shall be worn by staff, volunteers, and public visitors inside all enclosed City-owned buildings, including City Hall, the City Library, Fire Hall, and the Community Chest, until further notice. There shall be no exceptions for testing or vaccination status.
2. This resolution repeals and replaces resolved paragraph 5 of Resolution CY21-107, which gave discretion to department heads to determine mask-wearing requirements for their departments. The remainder of CY21-07 remains in effect.
3. The Disposal and Recycling Center waste baler building is exempted from the mask-wearing requirement when overhead doors are open and user traffic is limited as directed by the DRC Manager.
4. Occupants working alone in enclosed private City offices are exempted from the mask-wearing requirement but must don a mask when meeting with other people in that room.
5. Entries to City-owned facilities where mask wearing is required shall be posted with a sign stating the requirement. An explanatory handout shall be available for issue to persons questioning the posted requirement.
6. The City shall make available alternative means of conducting business without entry to City facilities wherever possible through outdoor meetings, curbside services, phone, email, US mail, and online channels.
7. This resolution applies only to City of Gustavus-owned buildings. The City does not seek to regulate mask wearing in private businesses, other agencies, residences, or outdoors.
8. The mayor shall monitor pandemic risk levels and recommendations of Federal and State of Alaska public health departments and shall report to the City Council monthly regarding pandemic risk assessments and public health recommendations. In reporting, the mayor shall recommend whether to continue or adjust the protective mask-wearing requirement for City-owned facilities. Criteria for ending the mask-wearing requirement may include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:
 - Alaska statewide alert level drops to and remains Low.
 - Angoon, Hoonah, and Yakutat regional, and Juneau City-Borough alert levels drop to and remain Low.
 - The CDC or the Alaska DHSS determine that the Covid-19 pandemic has transitioned from pandemic to endemic status nationally and within the State of Alaska.
 - The CDC and the Alaska DHSS end their recommendation for mask wearing as a pandemic protective measure in public indoor spaces.
9. The Gustavus City Council may repeal this 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.

PASSED and **APPROVED** by the Gustavus City Council this 17th day of January 2022.

Mike Taylor, Mayor

Karen Platt, City Clerk