

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE STATE OF OREGON, COUNTY OF BENTON**

**In the Matter of Lifting the Requirement                    )**  
**of Personal Masks or Cloth Face-coverings                )**           **ORDER #D2021-079**  
**in Outdoor Public Settings                                    )**

WHEREAS, On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Governor of the State of Oregon declared a state of emergency to address the threat of COVID-19 illness in the state; and

WHEREAS, On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Benton County Commissioners declared a County State of Emergency to address the threat of COVID-19 illness in Benton County; and

WHEREAS, Benton County has extended its emergency declaration through December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on August 11, 2021, the Governor issued an executive order requiring masks or personal face coverings to be worn by individuals over the age of 5 in indoor public settings and on August 17, 2021, the Board of Commissioners adopted Order No. D2021-063 mirroring that executive order; and

WHEREAS, Order No. D2021-063 also contained a requirement that masks or face coverings shall be worn by persons 5 years of age and older in outdoor public settings where physical distancing of 6 feet is not feasible;

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2021, the State of Oregon rescinded its requirement that persons 5 years of age or older shall wear masks or face coverings in outdoor public settings where physical distance of 6 feet is not feasible;

WHEREAS, while Benton County advocates the need to protect the gains made through COVID-19 vaccinations, social distancing, use of masks, and sanitization efforts to prevent the renewed occurrence and spread of COVID-19 illness that could cause the State or County to reimpose tighter restrictions, adversely impact the health care system, and imperil essential workers and vulnerable individuals, it wishes to remain in alignment with the mask and face covering guidance from the State of Oregon. Additional guidance documents can be found on the Benton County website <https://co.benton.or.us/covid19>; and

WHEREAS, based on current medical and public health science prior emphasis on personal precautions including handwashing, personal distancing, and indoor and outdoor masking / face-covering are effective in limiting transmission of respiratory illnesses including COVID-19; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Benton County Board of Commissioners, through its emergency authority and as the Board of Health, continues to require individuals 5 years of age and older to wear masks or face-covering at all times in indoor public settings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the requirement in Order No. D2021-063 requiring masks or face coverings be worn by persons 5 years of age and older in outdoor public settings where physical distancing of 6 feet is not feasible is hereby lifted and of no further effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this order shall be effective on upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this order shall be applicable within the boundaries of Benton County, including within city limits.

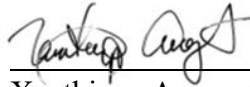
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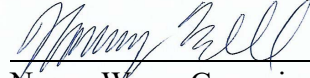
Adopted this 30<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2021.

Signed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2021.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Xanthippe Augerot, Chair



Nancy Wyse, Commissioner



Pat Malone, Commissioner

Approved as to form:

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Vance M. Croney, County Counsel