

**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 #D2022-037**
in Indoor Public Settings)

WHEREAS, On March 8, 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, 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 March 31, 2022; 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, on November 30, 2021, the Board of Commissioners adopted Order No. D2021-079 lifting the 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 March 12, 2022, the State of Oregon will rescind its requirement that persons 5 years of age or older shall wear masks or face coverings in indoor 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 healthcare 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; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT 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 indoor public settings where physical distancing of 6 feet is not feasible is hereby lifted and will be of no further effect as of March 12, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners urges and encourages residents, citizens, visitors, and workers within the County to assess their individual, household, and professional circumstances, as well as the level of COVID-19 transmission in the County. Those who are immunocompromised, have underlying health conditions, are age 65 and older, or are unvaccinated are recommended to continue wearing a well-fitted, high filtration mask, such as an N95 or KN95, in public indoor spaces. Those with vulnerable loved ones are urged and encouraged to help protect them by continuing to wear masks in public indoor spaces.

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

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

Adopted this 8th day of March, 2022.

Signed this 8th day of March, 2022.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Nancy Wyse, Chair

Approved as to form:

Pat Malone, Commissioner

Vance M. Croney, County Counsel

Xanthippe Augerot, Commissioner