

NASSAU COUNTY
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 16
(Emergency Management – COVID-19)

WHEREAS, Nassau County’s Emergency Management Plan authorizes the County Manager to issue orders that are deemed to be in the best interest of the citizens based upon the declared emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County has declared a State of Local Emergency within Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-51, directing that a Public Health Emergency be declared in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring a State of Emergency in the State of Florida regarding the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, at this time, there is no vaccine for COVID-19 and it is easily transmitted among citizens and a serious threat of impact from COVID-19 exists throughout Nassau County and the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County has seen an increase in COVID-19 positive cases, and in particular a spike in positive cases over the past several weeks since Memorial Day; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Surgeon General has issued guidelines as to masks and social distancing; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and Florida Department of Health continue to remind citizens that by wearing a face covering, citizens protect others from exposure as well as themselves; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County finds that it is necessary to take additional steps to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in response to the recent spikes in positive COVID-19 cases and hospital admittances; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County believes that requiring individuals serving the public to wear cloth face coverings will significantly help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and lessen the positive cases in Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, the CDC advises that, while a significant portion of individuals with COVID-19 are asymptomatic, the virus can still spread between people interacting in close proximity – for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing – even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County finds that there is a public health benefit to wear face coverings in all places open to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, PAT EDWARDS, as Vice Chairman, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Local State of Emergency and County Emergency Management Plan and with the consent of the Emergency Management Director, promulgate the following Executive Order to take immediate effect:

1. Every operator, employee, customer or patron, over the age of six (6), of a business establishment must wear a face mask or covering at all times while indoors at that business establishment unless he or she is able to engage in social distancing or unless wearing a face mask or covering significantly interferes with the provision or receipt

of goods or services offered or received at that establishment (i.e. patrons at a restaurant, clients at a barber shop or hair salon, patients at a dentist's office).

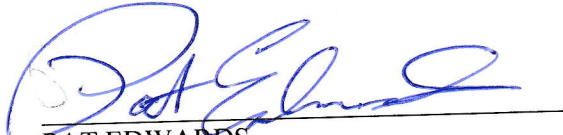
2. Public safety, fire, law enforcement and other life safety personnel are exempted from this requirement, as their personal protective equipment requirements will be governed by their respective agencies.
3. Every owner/manager of an establishment listed in Paragraph 1 should develop and implement a health and safety plan consistent with this Order requiring protective face coverings and CDC guidelines and to post the plan in a conspicuous location sufficient to provide notice to persons within the business of the requirements of the plan.
4. A face covering includes any covering which snugly covers the nose and mouth, whether store bought or homemade, and which is secured in place. Persons who wear masks should review the CDC and Florida Department of Health guidelines regarding properly and safely applying, removing and cleaning masks.
5. This Order shall be effective 7:00 a.m. on July 3, 2020 and will expire thirty (30) days from the date below unless extended by subsequent order.
6. This Order is in addition to the Executive Orders issued by Governor DeSantis.
7. This Emergency Order shall be enforced pursuant to Section 252.47, Florida Statutes. Violation of this Emergency Order is punishable pursuant to Section 252.50, Florida Statutes as a misdemeanor of the second degree.
8. When a customer of a business establishment asserts that he or she has a disability that prevents the individual from wearing a face mask or covering, the owner, manager, or employee of the business establishment may exclude the individual, even if they have a disability, as they pose a direct threat to the health and safety of employees and other

customers, even if asymptomatic, and shall accommodate the disabled individual in a manner that does not fundamentally alter the operations of the business establishment nor jeopardize the health of that business's employees and other customers, such as providing curb service or delivery or other reasonable accommodation.

9. This Order shall be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

DATED this 2nd day of July, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



PAT EDWARDS

Its: Vice Chairman

Attest as to Chairman's signature:



JOHN A. CRAWFORD

Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney:



MICHAEL S. MULLIN