Proclamation

Emergency Action Calling for Face Coverings

I, Jake Spano, Mayor of the City of St. Louis Park and Emergency Official for St. Louis Park subject to the authority granted to me pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 12.29 and the St. Louis Park Peace Time Emergency Due to COVID-19 Health Pandemic as well as all other applicable laws, rules, regulations, orders, and declarations, do hereby proclaim the following Emergency Action:

Whereas, when issuing Executive Order 20-74, Governor Walz has strongly encouraged Minnesotans “to wear a manufactured or homemade cloth face covering when they leave their homes and travel to any public setting where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) and to follow face covering guidelines issued by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Such face coverings are for source control (to help limit the person wearing the covering from infecting others)”; and

Whereas, the CDC and MDH along with other public health experts have determined that the virus can be transmitted before an infected individual shows symptoms and that a significant portion of individuals with COVID-19 do not have symptoms and can still transmit the virus; and

Whereas, the CDC and MDH are urging the general public to wear non-medical grade face coverings to help curb the spread of COVID-19, by preventing the transmission of respiratory droplets that contain the virus; and

Whereas, the CDC and MDH recommend using cloth face coverings to reduce the risk of transmission in addition to physical distancing, hand washing, and other prevention measures, understanding that face coverings are not a replacement for these activities; and

Whereas, pursuant to the authority granted to me pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, § 12.29 and the St. Louis Park Peace Time Emergency, Resolution 20-066 I am authorized to take emergency action directed or recommended by federal and state government or health organizations, including those otherwise inconsistent with established laws, policies, and procedure as determined to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Now, therefore, I, Jake Spano, Mayor of the City of St. Louis Park, do hereby proclaim the following:

1. Individuals are strongly urged to wear a face covering when in an indoor space that is accessible to the public.
2. The following shall also apply:
a. Restaurants and Bars. Are strongly urged to include in their COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that all customers wear a face covering when not seated at their table.

b. Spaces of Public Accommodation. Owners and managers of spaces of public accommodation are strongly urged to include in their COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that all employees wear a face covering when the individual is within any area open to the public or within six feet of another person. Customers should wear a face covering before entering the spaces of public accommodation and are strongly urged to wear the face covering until exiting.

c. Public Transportation. Users are strongly urged to wear a face covering before boarding a bus and wear the face covering until the user exits the bus.

d. Entertainment Venues. Users are strongly urged to wear a face covering when the user is within six feet of another person. When the user is seated and not within six feet of a person they can remove the face covering, but are strongly urged to wear the face covering when walking to or from their seat and while standing in or walking through public areas such as lobbies and restrooms.

e. Common Spaces in Multi-Family Residential and Multi-Tenant Office Buildings. Residents of multi-family housing buildings, and their guests; and tenants, employees and their guests in multi-tenant office buildings are strongly urged to wear a face covering when in common spaces such as hallways, corridors, lobbies, restrooms, mail rooms, elevators, trash and recycling rooms, fitness rooms, recreation rooms, laundry rooms, and other space owned and used in common by the residents, employees, and tenants of the building.

f. Outdoor Spaces. When in outdoor spaces, it is strongly recommended that every individual wear a face covering when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

3. To the extent anything in this Proclamation is inconsistent with the Governor’s Executive Order 20-74, the language of the Executive Order 20-74 shall take precedence.

4. This Proclamation is effective 12:01 a.m. (CST) on July 20, 2020.

5. Definitions:

   a. “Space of public accommodation” means a business, refreshment, entertainment, or recreation facility, or an institution of any kind, whether licensed or not, whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations are extended, offered, sold, or otherwise made available to the public. Examples include retail stores, rental establishments, City of St. Louis Park government buildings, and service establishments as well as recreational facilities, and service centers. This definition includes establishments and facilities that offer food and beverage not for on-premises consumption, including grocery stores, markets, convenience stores, pharmacies, drug stores, and food pantries.

   b. “Face covering” means a cloth or other covering that fully covers an individual’s nose and mouth, secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. The terms “mask” and “face covering” are synonymous.

   c. “Physical distancing” means maintaining six (6) feet of separation between individuals of different households.
6. This emergency action does not apply to:
   a. Individuals actively eating or drinking;
   b. Children under the age of 5;
   c. Individuals unable to wear a face covering due to medical reasons, disabilities, or developmental reasons.
   d. Individuals speaking to an audience, whether in person or through broadcast, as long as the speaker remains six feet or more away from other individuals.
   e. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or an individual who is speaking to someone who is deaf or hard of hearing and requires the mouth to be visible to communicate.
   f. Individuals who are unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
   g. Individuals temporarily removing the face covering for identification purposes.
   h. Participants in youth sports, as defined by the city of St. Louis Park, are exempt from this emergency action but subject to all requirements under the governor’s executive orders.
   i. Facilities operated by the county, state or federal government.
   j. Personal care services (i.e. salons) that already have state face covering requirements.
   k. Medical facilities that already have face covering requirements.
   l. Indoor athletic facilities. Indoor athletic facilities are urged to follow CDC and MDH guidelines. Patrons are not required to wear face coverings or masks while actively participating in permitted athletic activities but are urged to wear face coverings when not actively training.
   m. Places of worship
   n. Public and private school facilities

7. This emergency action is not a substitute for other critical health practices such as hand washing, staying home when sick, and physical distancing.

Wherefore, I set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the City of St. Louis Park to be affixed this day of July 17, 2020.

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Jake Spano, mayor