

RESOLUTION
NO. 2021-37

A RESOLUTION
TO BE ENTITLED:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA ENCOURAGING THE WEARING OF
FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC SETTINGS AND WITHIN
BUSINESSES WITHIN THE CITY OF PENSACOLA FOR THOSE
NOT FULLY VACCINATED; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
DATE

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of Florida issued Executive Order Number 20-52, declaring a State of Emergency for the state of Florida related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a health risk to the residents of the City, particularly elderly residents and those who are immunosuppressed or otherwise have high-risk medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that COVID-19 presents a danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is spread through airborne transmission from individuals speaking, coughing, and sneezing, and infectious droplet nuclei can spread for a great distance, although how far is not fully understood at present; and

WHEREAS, since April of 2020, the City has proactively directed the implementation of numerous efforts, including an aggressive communications campaign, to encourage persons in the City to practice social distancing, wash and sanitize their hands, clean high touch surfaces, and wear face coverings as community mitigation strategies to decrease the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis has issued a series of executive orders to re-open Florida and prohibit local mandates concerning mask wearing and business operations as protective measures against COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the re-opening of the State has led and will continue to lead to more contact between individuals who may or may not be vaccinated and the potential for increased community spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the use of face coverings has been identified as a measure to assist in preventing individuals who may be shedding the COVID-19 virus from spreading it to other individuals; and

WHEREAS, the CDC advises that the virus can spread between persons interacting in close proximity even if those persons are asymptomatic (persons not exhibiting symptoms) or are pre- symptomatic (persons who transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms); and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends only simple cloth face coverings for the general population and not surgical masks or N-95 respirators because these are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders; and

WHEREAS, cloth face coverings are relatively inexpensive, readily available, and can be made from household items, for which the CDC provides online guidance for making " do-it- yourself " face coverings for people who cannot or do not want to buy one from the increasing sources producing and selling face coverings; and

WHEREAS, encouraging the continued use of face covering requirements along with immunizations will assist in the slowing of the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, CDC guidelines currently state, those fully vaccinated can resume activities as were done prior to the pandemic, without a mask or staying six feet apart; and

WHEREAS, not all persons have been vaccinated against COVID, including persons who are too young to receive the vaccine, persons who have been advised by medical persons to not receive the vaccine, and persons who have decided for personal reasons to not be vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, the City Council specifically finds that the continued wearing of face coverings by those not fully vaccinated serves the health, safety and welfare of the citizens;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Pensacola encourages citizens and visitors who are not fully vaccinated to continue to wear face coverings when in public settings and businesses where social distancing of six feet is not possible or achievable.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall become effective on the fifth business day after adoption, unless otherwise provided, pursuant to Section 4.03(d) of the City Charter of the City of Pensacola.

Adopted: _____

Approved: _____
President of City Council

Attest:

City Clerk