

BLAINE COUNTY RESOLUTION 2020-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE BLAINE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR FACE COVERINGS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHEN THEY ARE IN PUBLIC PLACES

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person. The virus is spread between individuals who are in close contact with each other through respiratory droplets; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern; and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that people are most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest) however some spread might be possible before people show symptoms although that is not the main way the virus spreads; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Idaho Governor Brad Little signed a declaration of emergency for the State of Idaho in response to concerns that cases of COVID-19 are imminent in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, as of June 29, 2020, Idaho was reporting 5,752 total cases of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the risk of community spread throughout Blaine County impacts the life and health of the public, and imperils public health by the person-to-person spread of COVID-19, it is, therefore, necessary to reduce opportunities for the person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 to combat the spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, infection rates in Idaho have significantly increased in urban areas in recent weeks, and have begun to increase in Blaine County partially due to a swell of summer visitors; and

WHEREAS, the increase in infections is likely to result in an increase in hospitalizations and usage of ICU beds and ventilators; and

WHEREAS, there are minimal ICU beds and limited ventilators in Blaine County and there is concern among health care providers in Blaine County that a spike in COVID-19 cases in Blaine County will result in a need to divert critically ill patients, which need will not be met due to a lack of available ICU beds and ventilators statewide; and

WHEREAS, wearing face coverings is an effective, inexpensive, and simple method of lessening community spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuing and urgent need to protect all residents, employees and visitors in the Blaine County from the risks relating to the COVID-19 pandemic through the protection provided by wearing facial coverings;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners hereby resolve as follows:

Section 1. Every person is expected to wear a face covering that completely covers the person's nose and mouth when the person is in a public place and others are present. For purposes of this Resolution:

- a. "Public place" means any place, indoor or outdoor, that is open to the public and includes, but is not limited to, businesses or other establishments where people assemble and interact, or members of the general public may enter.

Section 2. Facial coverings are not expected to be worn under the following circumstances:

- a. Children under the age of 5. Parents or guardians are responsible for ensuring that children between the ages of 5 and 17 wear appropriate face coverings as identified under this Resolution.
- b. Persons with medical conditions that prevent them from wearing a face covering.
- c. Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- d. Persons, including on-duty law-enforcement officers, for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- e. Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose, face, or head for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
- f. Persons who are eating or drinking at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, so long as they engage in social distancing.
- g. Persons who are engaged in outdoor activities, work, recreation, or exercise, so long as they engage in social distancing.
- h. Persons who are engaged in indoor exercise, so long as they engage in social distancing.

Section 3. All individuals are expected, except as exempted above, to comply with these standards.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon adoption and shall expire on August 31, 2020, unless repealed.

Regularly passed, approved and adopted by the County Board of Commissioners on the 30th day of June, 2020.

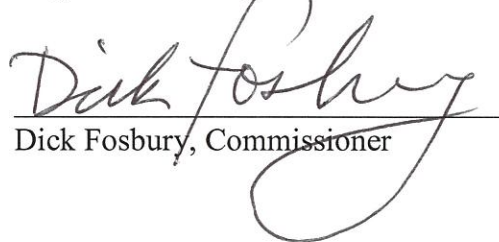
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO

(seal)


Jacob Greenberg, Chairman



Angenie McCleary, Vice-Chair


Dick Fosbury, Commissioner

ATTEST:


JoLynn Drage, Clerk

