

**SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT RESOLUTION 2020-1**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH OF SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH 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 July 14, 2020, Idaho was reporting 11,718 total confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19, and 103 deaths to date; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 14, 2020, South Central Public Health District was reporting 2,487 total confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19, including 74 new cases on July 9, 2020, and 38 deaths to date, throughout the Health District; and

**WHEREAS**, the risk of community spread throughout South Central Public Health District 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 surged in certain areas in recent weeks, and have significantly increased in South Central Public Health District as well; 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 is concern expressed by the local hospitals in South Central Public Health District that a spike in COVID-19 cases in South Central Public Health District will result

in hospitalized patients not able to get necessary medical care due to a lack of available staffed hospital beds, ICU beds, ventilators, or health care workers 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 South Central Public Health District from the risks relating to the COVID-19 pandemic through the protection provided by wearing facial coverings;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of Health of South Central Public Health District hereby resolve as follows:

**Section 1.** Every person is strongly encouraged to wear a face covering such as face mask or face shield that completely covers the person's nose and mouth when the person is in a public place and others are present and adequate social distancing of at least 6 feet cannot be maintained. 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 need not be worn under the following circumstances:

- a. Children under the age of 5. Parents or guardians are strongly encouraged to ensure 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.

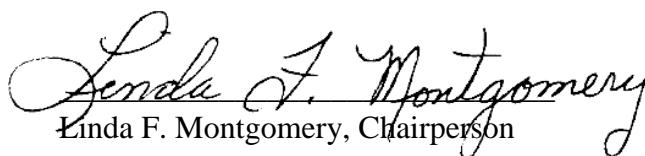
h. Persons who are engaged in indoor exercise, so long as they engage in social distancing.

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

**Section 4.** This Resolution shall remain in full force and effect immediately upon adoption until rescinded, superseded, or amended by South Central Public Health District.

Regularly passed, approved and adopted by the Board of Health of South Central Public Health District on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2020.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT, IDAHO

  
Linda F. Montgomery, Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
Melody Bowyer, Board Secretary