



**RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS
DURING COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus and to help prevent people who may unknowingly have the virus from transmitting it to others; and

WHEREAS, the Vermont Department of Health “recommends that all Vermonters wear cloth face coverings when outside of the home to help slow the spread of COVID-19”; and

WHEREAS, Governor Phil Scott and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development have issued the following instructions in conjunction with the Governor’s executive orders regarding COVID-19:

“Employees must wear face coverings over their nose and mouth when in the presence of others. In the case of retail cashiers, a translucent shield or ‘sneeze guard’ is acceptable in lieu of a mask. Businesses and non-profit and government entities may require customer or clients to wear masks” while on their premises and, “The legislative body of each municipality may enact more strict local requirements regarding mask use than those set forth herein”; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 remains a health hazard to residents of the Village of Essex Junction and a significant threat to vulnerable populations and the people of the Village of Essex Junction and we believe in protecting our loved ones and our neighbors; and

WHEREAS, The Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees recognize the potentially disastrous effects COVID-19 could have, and has had, on its citizens were business and citizens not to follow the responsible and creative measures to conduct business in a manner consistent with CDC and Vermont Department of Health social distancing guidelines and other health care recommendations; and

WHEREAS, wearing a face covering is an important act we can do in an effort to protect others from an infection that we may not even know we have; and

WHEREAS, as the State of Vermont begins to slowly resume opening businesses and public spaces, the Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees recognize the need to ensure these measures, particularly the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), are followed in order to avoid the needless illness and deaths of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees do not condone “mask shaming” (when someone covering their face against COVID-19 shames someone for not wearing a mask) and appreciate each individual’s understanding that not all individuals can wear a mask as it may be more harmful than healthy. Furthermore, the Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees appreciate and thank those who believe in the best intentions of humanity; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees by adopting a resolution and not an ordinance understand this resolution is not enforceable by the Town of Essex Police Department. Instead, this resolution is to be used as an educational tool and aid for businesses and the community to assist in ensuring the health of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that beginning June 10, 2020, all establishments located in the Village of Essex Junction that invite the public into their premises for the purpose of transacting business are strongly encouraged to require customers (or visitors) to wear cloth face coverings or face shields over their nose and mouth while inside the establishment when appropriate social distancing is not-possible.

Be it further resolved that any member of the public entering a Village-owned building must wear a PPE face covering or respirator that covers at least their mouth and nose.

Be it further resolved that the Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees hereby appreciate and thank all businesses and individuals for doing their part to prevent the spread of this deadly virus.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2; anyone who has trouble breathing; or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Each establishment may choose to post signage at the entrance and at other appropriate locations stating that customers (or visitors) are required to wear face coverings as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vermont Department of Health and the Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees.

This Resolution shall remain in effect until the Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees amends, rescinds, or suspends this Resolution or until the Governor declares an end to the COVID-19 State of Emergency in Vermont, whichever occurs first.

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