

Sec. 17.37 FACE COVERING REQUIREMENT:

PREAMBLE: This ordinance is being adopted in response to a worldwide pandemic of the novel coronavirus which causes COVID-19. The virus has been spreading locally in Story County, the City of Ames, and on the Iowa State University campus. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Iowa Department of Public Health, Story County Board of Health, and Mary Greeley Medical Center have all encouraged people to wear face coverings as a method to slow or prevent transmission of the virus. This ordinance is being adopted pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Authority as stated in Article III, Section 38A of the Iowa Constitution and Iowa Code section 364.1. It is the intent and belief of the Ames City Council that this ordinance does not conflict with provisions of the Governor of Iowa's Public Health Disaster Emergency Proclamation regarding COVID-19 which is currently in effect.

(1) Every person in the City of Ames three (3) years of age or older must wear a face covering that completely covers the person's nose and mouth under the following circumstances:

a. Outside whenever the person cannot stay at least six (6) feet away from others not in the person's household;

b. Inside any indoor setting or establishment where the public is invited in, including, but not limited to:

i. Grocery, retail, and hardware stores, gas stations and convenience stores, fitness centers, pharmacies, any other indoor public setting when with persons who do not live in the person's household, and other public settings that are not the person's place of residence. A childcare facility is not considered a public setting or a facility where the public is invited in.

(2) A person is not required to wear a face covering at the following places or times:

a. While traveling in a personal vehicle alone or with household members.

b. While a person is in the person's household or the household's yard, or in another person's household.

c. While outside, where at least six (6) feet of physical separation from others can be maintained.

d. While at a person's place of employment where at least six (6) feet of physical separation from others can be maintained.

e. While exercising at moderate or high intensity, such as jogging or biking or while engaging in or practicing for sporting activities.

f. While seated inside or outside at a food establishment in the process of eating or drinking.

g. While seated inside or outside at a bar in the process of eating or drinking.

h. While obtaining a service that would require temporary removal of the person's face covering.

i. When federal or state law prohibits wearing a face covering or requires the removal of the face covering.

(3) The following persons are exempt from wearing a face covering:

a. Persons younger than three (3) years of age.

b. Anyone who has a medical condition causing difficulty of breathing or is on oxygen therapy or a ventilator.

c. Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

d. Anyone who has been advised by a medical or behavioral health professional not to wear face coverings.

e. Anyone actively engaged in a public safety role, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel, although a face covering should be worn if possible.

(4) Compliance with this ordinance shall be obtained through education and encouragement only. There is no penalty for a violation of this ordinance.

SUNSET CLAUSE: This ordinance expires and becomes null and void after June 30, 2021, unless the date in this clause is amended or the ordinance is sooner repealed.

(Ord. No. 4420, 9-1-2020; Ord. No. 4426, 12-22-2020)