



"Inspiring a Vibrant Community"

**EXTENDED EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION AND MODIFIED ORDER OF THE MAYOR
OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA**

WHEREAS, the highly transmissible, infectious, and all-too-often lethal virus known as SARS-CoV-2 continues to circulate widely throughout the United States, the State of Arizona, Yavapai County, and the City of Cottonwood; and

WHEREAS, as of July 15, 2020, the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19, has resulted in the deaths of over 135,000 Americans, including approximately 2,125 Arizonans; and

WHEREAS, as of July 15, 2020, the Arizona Department of Health Services reports over 130,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Arizona; along with almost 100 deaths statewide and a positivity rate in excess of 20 percent, reflecting continued widespread transmission and spread of the disease in Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation estimates that over 50,000 American lives, including the lives of more than 1,000 Arizonans could be saved through October alone by compliance with mask-wearing requirements; and

WHEREAS, many of our community's residents fall into one or more of the categories known to place them at significantly higher risk of acute illness and death from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Arizona Revised Statutes Section 26-311 and Section 2.04.030(F) of the Cottonwood City Code authorize the Mayor to proclaim the existence of a local emergency for reasons that include the actual or imminent spread of pandemic disease that endangers the health and lives of the members of the community, and to issue orders to protect the public in such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2020, I, Tim Elinski, Mayor of the City of Cottonwood, issued an Emergency Proclamation and Order that was to expire in 30 days unless terminated, modified or extended by subsequent, superseding action by the Mayor, Governor or Legislature; and

WHEREAS, while I have determined that the Proclamation and Order should be extended, I have also determined that the difficult decisions surrounding whether and to what extent to require mask-wearing in the schools of our community are better left to the elected leaders, superintendents, building principals, teachers, parents and families of the students who attend those schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tim Elinski, Mayor of the City of Cottonwood, Arizona do hereby proclaim a continuing state of local emergency to exist and hereby order as follows:

1. Effective immediately, and for the primary purpose of continuing to protect the lives and health of the most vulnerable among us - including the elderly and those with serious underlying health conditions - all persons within the City of Cottonwood over the age of 3 shall, except as noted below and/or when otherwise objectively unfeasible (including but not limited to when contraindicated by an underlying physical or mental disability or health condition; or when dining/ drinking in a public establishment), wear face coverings that are designed and worn to cover both the nose and mouth whenever such person is in a close public setting.
2. For the purpose of this Extended Emergency Proclamation and Modified Order, the term "close public setting" includes any building, facility, business, workplace, public vehicle, or other indoor or outdoor space, event, program, gathering or activity in or at which a person is or will likely come within less than 6 feet of any other person to whom they are not related or with whom they are not currently sheltering.
3. This Extended Emergency Proclamation and Modified Order shall not extend to any public or private school in the City, or to students travelling to and from school and/or school related events on school buses. Rather, it is left to the Governing Boards, Superintendents, Building Principals and/or other responsible officials of such schools to establish such rules, regulations, policies and procedures as they deem to be in the best interests of the children, teachers, staff and families they serve, as well as the larger community.
4. Without limitation, and in addition to the exceptions noted above, this Extended Emergency Proclamation and Modified Order shall not be interpreted or enforced in any manner that infringes on any person's religious beliefs or their right to engage in religious practice; or on the ability of any first responder to carry out their duties as such.

This Extended Emergency Proclamation and Modified Order shall be effective for 30 days, unless terminated, modified or extended by subsequent, superseding action by the Mayor, Governor or Legislature.

Issued this 16th day of July 2020.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Elinski", is written over a horizontal line.

Tim Elinski, Mayor