



"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 throughout the United States, the State of Arizona, Yavapai County, and the City of Cottonwood; and

WHEREAS, as of August 17, 2020, the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19, has resulted in the deaths of more than 170,000 Americans, including more than 4,500 Arizonans; and

WHEREAS, as of August 17, 2020, the Arizona Department of Health Services reports that there have been more than 194,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Arizona, along with a positivity rate of 12 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 60,000 American lives, including the lives of more than 1,000 Arizonans could be saved through November alone by continued compliance with existing mask-wearing requirements; while an *additional* 80,000 American lives could be lost in the same period if current mandates are eased; 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 requires individuals within the City of Cottonwood over the age of 3 to wear face coverings whenever they are in close public settings, subject to certain exceptions; and

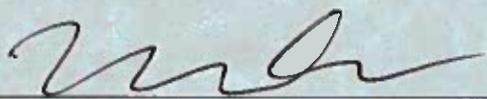
WHEREAS, on July 16, 2020, I extended and modified that Emergency Proclamation and Order to leave the difficult decisions surrounding whether and to what extent to require mask-wearing in the schools of our community to the elected leaders, superintendents, building principals, teachers, parents and families of the students who attend those schools; and

WHEREAS, I believe that lives have been and will continue to be saved during this pandemic through prudent public health measures including reasonable mask-wearing requirements;

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. 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 - any person 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 a face covering that is 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.
5. This Extended Emergency Proclamation and Modified Order shall be effective until either the Arizona Department of Health Services or the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention withdraw their respective recommendations regarding mask-wearing in public settings; or until terminated, modified or extended by subsequent, superseding action by the Mayor, Governor or Legislature.

Issued this 18h day of August 2020.



Tim Elinski, Mayor

