

BOROUGH OF BELLEFONTE - RESOLUTION 20201207-01

A RESOLUTION TO SAVE LIVES & BRING BACK JOBS BY ENDORSING, SUPPORTING, AND COMPLYING WITH GOVERNOR WOLF'S MANDATORY MASK WEARING AND LOCAL ENFORCEMENT GUIDELINES FOR PENNSYLVANIANS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the CDC has declared COVID-19 a public health emergency and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf proclaimed a disaster emergency due to COVID-19 throughout the Commonwealth;¹ and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020² and March 31, 2020³, the Centre County Board of Commissioners declared a disaster emergency due to COVID-19 in Centre County; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2020 and on June 1, 2020, the Mayor of Bellefonte declared and then extended his declaration of disaster emergency for the Borough of Bellefonte; and

WHEREAS, the use of masks can slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus by helping to prevent people who have the virus (and may not have any symptoms) from transmitting it to others around them;⁴ and

WHEREAS, the mask should cover your mouth and nose and will help stop you from exposing others to the virus through your breath, cough, or sneeze;⁵ and

WHEREAS, non-medical masks prevent you from unknowingly spreading germs you have to others;⁶ and, a simple cloth or paper mask that covers your mouth and nose will work. Both types work fine provided that they cover your mouth AND nose. A cloth covering, like a bandana, scarf, or piece of fabric will also work provided it snugly fits against the side of your face and covers your mouth and nose;⁷ and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2020, the PA Department of Health updated the April 15, 2020 Order Relating to Public Health Safety Measures and the May 27, 2020 Orders for Reopening the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to mandate that masks be worn outdoors as well as indoors whenever anyone leaves home and that communities and local officials, law enforcement and

¹ <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-signs-COVID-19-disaster-declaration-to-provide-increased-support-for-state-response/>

² http://centrecountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13281/CentreCo-BOC-COVID-19_Emergency_Declaration

³ <https://www.centrecountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13412/33120-Declaration-of-Disaster-Emergency>

⁴ <https://champaign-COVID-19-ccgisc.hub.arcgis.com/pages/mask-resources>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/Updated%20Order%20of%20the%20Secretary%20Requiring%20Universal%20Face%20Coverings.pdf>.

⁷ Ibid.

others are tasked with the education to the public regarding these public health safety orders⁸; and

WHEREAS, Governor Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine's business guidance and restaurant industry guidance includes mandatory mask-wearing requirements;⁹ and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2020, Governor Wolf issued an updated order¹⁰ on mandatory masking and sustained physical distancing; and

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2020, Governor Wolf issued an updated COVID-19 Order for Mitigation, Enforcement, and Immunity Protections¹¹; and

WHEREAS, this order of November 23¹² states that as of November 21, there have been 302,564 positive cases of COVID-19 in all sixty-seven counties, 9,801 deaths from COVID-19 within the Commonwealth, and that the Commonwealth is now recording daily COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in greater numbers than at any other time during this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in Centre County as of December 6, there have been 6,889 positive cases of COVID-19¹³ with 79 deaths¹⁴; this includes an additional 484 positive cases (a 7% increase) and one additional death since November 30; and

WHEREAS, as of December 6, within the 16823-zip code (Bellefonte and Pleasant Gap area), there have been 874 confirmed and 45 probable cases of COVID-19 since the start of this pandemic; of these 874 cases, 165 or 19% of these cases were diagnosed in the last seven days¹⁵; and

WHEREAS, this most recent order¹⁶ by Governor Wolf and the PA Department of Health strengthens, revises and reissues its orders to protect businesses, customers, and employees by consolidating previous orders, including reiterating cleaning and social distancing requirements, mandatory telework requirements unless impossible, and other safety measures, including, but not limited to:

- Mandating telework unless impossible; safety measures required for businesses including cleaning, social distancing and masking; and

⁸ <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20200701-SOH-Universal-Face-Coverings-Order.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-COVID-19/#ForBusinesses>

¹⁰ .

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/Updated%20Order%20of%20the%20Secretary%20Requiring%20Universal%20Face%20Coverings.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/as-COVID-19-cases-reach-critical-levels-wolf-admin-announces-new-mitigation-efforts/>

¹² <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20201123-TWW-mitigation-enforcement-immunity-order.pdf>.

¹³ <https://data.pa.gov/Health/COVID-19-Aggregate-Cases-Current-Daily-County-Health/j72v-r42c/data>

¹⁴ <https://data.pa.gov/Health/COVID-19-Aggregate-Death-Data-Current-Daily-County/fbgu-sqgp/data> .

¹⁵ <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/pages/cases.aspx>

¹⁶ <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/as-COVID-19-cases-reach-critical-levels-wolf-admin-announces-new-mitigation-efforts/>.

- Encouraging online sales and curbside pickup for all shopping; and
- Reducing the maximum capacity for indoor and outdoor events in all communities as well as within businesses; and
- Requiring universal facial coverings at all events and businesses; and
- Requiring physical distancing both indoors and outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's and Secretary of Health's orders were issued pursuant to the authority granted to them under the law¹⁷, and as such these orders have the force and effect of law¹⁸; and

WHEREAS, counties and municipalities, including the Borough of Bellefonte, are authorized to enforce state law, including orders from the Secretary of Health or Governor¹⁹.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bellefonte Borough Council endorses and supports Governor Wolf's mandatory mask wearing and social distancing for Pennsylvanians when in a public space; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bellefonte Borough Council calls on people who live, work, learn, and play in Bellefonte to wear masks when in a public space where social distancing can't be maintained or when in a business; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bellefonte Borough Council extends its profound appreciation to the leaders of businesses, nonprofits, institutions of faith, and other organizations who have encouraged the wearing of cloth masks to help protect people and safely reopen our economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bellefonte Borough Council declares that the borough will comply with these state-policies and directs the Bellefonte Borough Police to educate the public and enforce all state mandated COVID-19 orders as outlined in Governor Wolf's order on November 23, 2020 and any subsequent orders during this emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in order to provide additional updates to the community, the borough shall post this resolution and any additional COVID-19 orders from the PA Department of Health's COVID-19 affecting local communities on the COVID-19 section of the Bellefonte Borough website and on the official Borough Facebook page.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, this resolution shall remain active until the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania fully lifts the statewide emergency proclamation with no further restrictions.

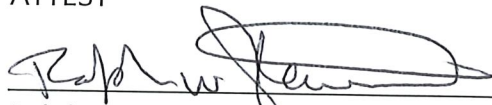
ADOPTED this 7th day of December 2020.

¹⁷ The Pennsylvania Disease and Prevention Control ACT of 1955
(<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/US/PDF/1955/0/0500..PDF>).

¹⁸ <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/as-COVID-19-cases-reach-critical-levels-wolf-admin-announces-new-mitigation-efforts/>.

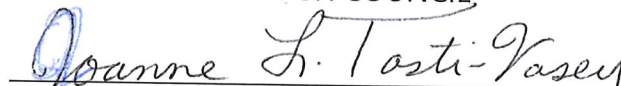
¹⁹ Ibid.

ATTEST

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph Stewart", written over a horizontal line.

Ralph Stewart, Secretary

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joanne L. Tosti-Vasey", written over a horizontal line.

Joanne Tosti-Vasey, President