

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS DURING THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, there are 97,064 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Georgia as of July 6, 2020, and 7,050 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in DeKalb County as of July 6, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the presence of community spread in Georgia and DeKalb County has been confirmed and it is expected that substantially more cases will be diagnosed in Georgia and DeKalb County during the COVID-19 outbreak; and,

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic as of March 11, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in response to the outbreak of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp declared that a public health emergency exists in the State of Georgia due to the spread of COVID-19 within Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, as a densely populated, thriving suburban community that serves as a center of commercial, civic, government, social, entertainment, academic, and religious activities, the City of Dunwoody has heightened risk of "community spread" as that term is defined by the Centers for Disease Control; and,

WHEREAS, a significant number of Georgia residents are at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, a large number of persons with serious infections can compromise the ability of the healthcare system in DeKalb County to deliver necessary care to the public; and,

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness, transmitted through person-to-person contact or by contact with surfaces contaminated with the virus and persons infected with COVID-19 may become symptomatic two to fourteen days after exposure; and,

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WHEREAS, asymptomatic and presymptomatic infected persons are infectious and, without mitigation, the current estimate is that 40%-80% of infections occur from individuals without symptoms; and,

WHEREAS, respiratory droplets from infected persons are a major mode of COVID-19 transmission. This understanding is the basis of the recommendations for physical distancing, and of the personal protective equipment guidance for healthcare workers. Droplets do not only come from coughing or sneezing; droplets are generated via talking and breathing; and,

WHEREAS, evidence indicates that the use of face coverings reduces the transmissibility per contact by reducing transmission of infected droplets in both laboratory and clinical contexts. Public face covering wearing is most effective at stopping the spread of the virus when compliance is high. This evidence supports the conclusion that the adoption of more widespread face covering requirements can help to control the COVID-19 epidemic by reducing the shedding of droplets into the environment from asymptomatic individuals; and,

WHEREAS, guidelines published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend that all people wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other physical distancing measures may be difficult to maintain. CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others; and,

WHEREAS, decreased transmissibility due to face covering use could substantially reduce the death toll and economic impact while the cost of the intervention is low; and,

WHEREAS, as of July 7, 2020 orders requiring face coverings in total or in part are already in place state-wide in at least twenty-one (21) states and in many local communities in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Kemp's executive order 6.29.20.02 "Empowering a Healthy Georgia" on June 29, 2020 ordered "that all residents and visitors to the State of Georgia are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings as practicable while outside their homes or place of residence, except when eating, drinking, or exercising outdoors;" and,

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WHEREAS, Governor Kemp’s executive order 6.29.20.02 prohibits cities and counties from enacting orders, rules and regulations for their own communities that are inconsistent with said order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DUNWOODY, as follows:

While indoors, all customers, employees, and other users of restaurants, grocery and retail stores, all occupants of public transportation vehicles, and all persons in any other indoor or outdoor environment in which people cannot maintain the physical distance required or recommended are strongly encouraged to use a face covering.

Reasonable exceptions to the use of face coverings include:

- Children under the age of ten (10)
- People who cannot wear face coverings due to a medical or behavioral conditions
- People whose religious beliefs prevent them from wearing a face covering
- While eating or drinking
- When complying with the directions of a law enforcement officer or for the purposes of verifying a person’s identity while purchasing alcohol, tobacco, or prescription drugs;
- With family and/or household members in a domestic setting.

SO RESOLVED AND EFFECTIVE, this 13th day of July, 2020.

CITY OF DUNWOODY

Lynn P. Deutsch, Mayor

Attest:

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk
(SEAL)