



## PROCLAMATION REQUESTING AUTHORITY FROM THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LOCALIZED RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19, caused by a novel coronavirus named SARS-CoV-2, is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans that can spread from person to person; and,

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a national public health emergency on January 31, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak; and,

**WHEREAS**, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on March 9, 2020 to coordinate the State of Iowa's response to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, President Donald Trump issued a proclamation on March 13, 2020 declaring that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Reynolds issued a Proclamation of Public Health Disaster Emergency on March 17, 2020 to provide additional needed resources and measures to respond to the COVID-19 disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued by Governor Reynolds on July 17, 2020, the State of Public Health Disaster Emergency continues to exist throughout the entire state of Iowa

**WHEREAS**, in the July 17, 2020 Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued by Governor Reynolds she encouraged all Iowans to limit in-person interactions with vulnerable Iowans and to exercise particular care and caution when engaging in any necessary interactions; and,

**WHEREAS**, consistent with the guidance of the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Governor Reynolds' most recent proclamation issued on July 31, 2020 requires businesses and sponsors of gatherings to ensure social distancing of employees, customers, and attendees, and to increase hygiene practices and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Public Health COVID-19 Reopening Guidance issued by IDPH strongly encourages adhering to guidance regarding the use of cloth face coverings by employees and members of the public when social distancing measures are not possible or are difficult to maintain because wearing face coverings in public settings (like grocery stores and pharmacies) can help slow the spread of COVID-19; and,

**WHEREAS**, Linn County Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Surgeon General, and other public health experts have determined that the use of face coverings in a public setting is a critical tool to mitigate the risk of community spread of COVID-19, especially when social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, and particularly when used universally within communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Linn County Board of Supervisors and the mayors of cities in Linn County issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency on March 19, 2020 under the authority granted by the Iowa Constitution, and by Iowa Code Section 331.301(1) and Iowa Code Section 364.1 respectively, and by applicable jurisdictional codes and ordinances related to Civil Emergencies; and,

**WHEREAS**, Linn County is within a 60 mile radius of three major meat packing facilities that closed temporarily due to COVID-19 outbreaks and that employ many Linn County residents; and,

**WHEREAS**, as of August 5, 2020, there were 2,153 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 87 deaths associated with COVID-19 in Linn County; and

**WHEREAS**, since issuing the Declaration of Disaster Emergency, the Linn County Board of Supervisors and the elected officials of many Linn County cities, along with the Linn County Board of Health, have called on Governor Reynolds to authorize local governments to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by enacting legally enforceable restrictions on the activities and actions of people who do not wear face coverings, when the use of such face coverings may protect lives and public health; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Linn County Board of Supervisors, the Linn County Board of Health, and the undersigned Mayors of the cities of Cedar Rapids, Central City, Ely, Fairfax, Hiawatha, Marion, Mount Vernon, Palo, Prairieburg, Springville and Robins in Linn County wish to curtail the spread of COVID-19, and hereby request that Governor Reynolds grant counties and cities the authority to decide on the use of face coverings in their respective jurisdictions.

**NOW, BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED**, that the Linn County Board of Supervisors formally calls upon Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds to modify the existing State of Iowa Proclamation of Disaster Emergency to enable counties and cities to enact localized responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as legally enforceable restrictions on the activity and actions of people who do not wear face coverings when the use of such face coverings may protect lives and public health.

#### LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Ben Rogers, Chair

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