

**NEWS RELEASE**

City of Douglas

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## **City Council Votes to Require Face Coverings in Public Places**

**DOUGLAS, ARIZ. – (June 23, 2020).** At Monday night's Special Council Meeting, the Douglas City Council issued a Proclamation under CDC guidelines, requiring that all individuals in the City of Douglas wear face coverings in public places where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. This proclamation is effective June 23, 2020 at noon.

The mandate requires that face coverings, made of cloth, fabric or other permeable material, be worn over the mouth and nose by all individuals in the City when physical distancing is not possible. Anyone found to be in violation of this order will be given the opportunity to comply before facing the possibility of being issued a civil citation as a last resort.

The order does not apply to those who cannot wear a face covering because of a medical condition which would preclude them from wearing face coverings. Other exceptions include those at home or participating in activities with family members, exercising outdoors while distancing, while consuming food or drink at a restaurant, for children under 6 years old and for those who are receiving dental services or medical treatment, or while swimming.

Mayor Huish would like to thank the City Council and citizenry of Douglas for their valuable input in this important matter.

Arizona is spiking in cases and according to state and federal health authorities, the risk of contracting the virus increases significantly when individuals are in enclosed spaces for extended periods of time and where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Douglas residents can help curb the spread of this illness by continuing to reduce their exposure wherever possible.

The virus is thought to spread primarily from person to person who are in close contact with one another. This occurs through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, talks in normal speech or sneezes. Douglas, along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Cochise County Health Department, strongly recommends hand washing, physical distancing, facial coverings, and frequently disinfecting surfaces as significant ways of reducing the risk of contracting the virus. Additionally, vulnerable populations, including those with serious underlying medical conditions and adults 65 years old and older, should avoid congregate settings.