



Village of Elk Rapids

315 Bridge Street
P.O. Box 398
Elk Rapids, MI 49629-0398

Phone: 231-264-9274
Fax: 231-264-6337

Contact: Village Manager William Cooper or
Assistant Village Manager/Village Clerk Caroline Kennedy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Elk Rapids, MI

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ELK RAPIDS VILLAGE COUNCIL REQUIRES WEARING OF FACE MASKS IN ALL ENCLOSED SPACES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Elk Rapids Village Council last night, by unanimous consent adopted Resolution 20-21 to require the wearing of face masks in all enclosed spaces that are open to the public.

After discussion regarding the effectiveness of face masks to prevent transmission of the virus and the fact that enforcement can be difficult, Council crafted resolution language during the meeting and voted to adopt that resolution.

The resolution is intended to run concurrently with the State of Michigan's executive orders, as may be in effect.

Discussion centered around village government providing leadership and support to private business owners to enforce the wearing of face masks within their businesses in an effort to keep all residents and visitors safe, as well as to help sustain business operations reliant upon the public.

Discussion points were made that business owners and other members of the public should feel supported in their decision to follow safe COVID19 protocols, especially the wearing of masks. A strong argument was raised that residents and visitors who research a place to go and make a decision based on promised safety protocols, should be able to rely on that information. They should not be forced to choose between their safety and unenforced protocols after they arrive.

Village Manager William Cooper stated, "When residents and visitors make a decision to enter a certain establishment or come to our community, they should be able to count on our promise to be safe. Additionally, we don't want to see our businesses shut down again. We want economic sustainability for our business sector."

Attachment: Elk Rapids Village Council Resolution 20-21

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