

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE PUBLIC TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO HELP SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

WHEREAS, Governor Bill Lee has declared a continuing state of emergency and major disaster in order to facilitate the response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and has strongly urged people to wear face coverings in public settings where we may be close to others; and

WHEREAS, as reported by the Tennessee Department of Health and Vanderbilt School of Medicine, new cases and hospitalizations are rising in all areas of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, zip code-specific data from the Tennessee Department of Health shows the rate of new infections increasing in Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, since March 1, 2020, the City has seen continuous impact on its organization due to COVID-19 and thirty-two (32) City employees have been quarantined; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated a nationwide spike in COVID-19 will occur over the winter months as people spend more time indoors, especially during the holiday season when people tend to gather with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State of Tennessee Department of Health, and numerous other sources have identified prevention measures everyone can take to help slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, such measures include:(1) wearing face masks in public, when we are indoors or may be near others, (2) keeping hands clean by frequent washing and using hand sanitizer, (3) avoiding crowds, and (4) keeping a six-foot (6-foot) distance from people who don't live in our household.

WHEREAS, these simple steps can help slow the spread of the virus, which protects ourselves, our neighbors, our healthcare workers, our schools and places of business, our vulnerable citizens, and our youth; and

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt School of Medicine has reported that hospitals that serve areas in Tennessee where mask-wearing and related precautions are widespread are receiving fewer new COVID-19 patients than hospitals in other areas of the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE:

The City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, respectfully requests and strongly urges all residents, businesses, and visitors to take precautionary measures at all times to help slow the spread of COVID-19, especially over the upcoming holiday and winter season when a spike is predicted to occur. Such measures include: (1) wearing face masks in public, when indoors or when we may be near others, (2) keeping hands clean by frequent washing and using hand sanitizer, (3) avoiding crowds, and (4) keeping a 6-foot distance from people who don't live in our household.

This the 9th day of November 2020.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Kenneth R. Krushenski, City Attorney

Warren L. Gooch, Mayor

Mary Beth Hickman, City Clerk