



DIRECTIVE NO. 2021-3

JEFFERSON COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER DIRECTIVE REGARDING COVID-19; REQUIRING THE WEARING OF CLOTH FACE COVERINGS

WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is caused by a virus known as SARS-Cov-2 that spreads easily from person to person which may result in serious illness or death and has been classified by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has spread throughout Washington State, including Jefferson County, significantly threatening the life and health of persons in Jefferson County;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 can spread from people without symptoms, including persons who are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic, to others;

WHEREAS, whereas airborne spread of SARS-CoV-2 is now acknowledged to be the predominant route of transmission and that the overwhelming majority of cases of transmission occur in indoor spaces;

WHEREAS, respiratory droplets and aerosols from infected individuals can be transmitted not only through coughing or sneezing but also through other actions including talking, shouting, singing, or breathing;

WHEREAS, vaccination is a highly effective method for both preventing COVID-19 and preventing the spread of SARS-CoV-2;

WHEREAS, non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as physical distancing and the wearing of cloth face coverings, are also effective measures to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington as a result of COVID-19 outbreak in the United States and confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID19 in Washington State;

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Health Officer issued a masking mandate on May 26, 2020 and Governor Jay Inslee issued a statewide masking mandate on June 26, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Governor established a phased approach to economic reopening in Washington State known as the Roadmap to Recovery and has announced his intention to remove all COVID-related restrictions by June 30, 2021 or earlier if statewide vaccination targets are met;

WHEREAS, Jefferson County is a popular travel and leisure destination which experiences a large influx of visitors throughout the year, particularly in and around the summer months;

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2021 the Centers for Disease Control issued new guidelines regarding masking based on scientific studies that demonstrated the Covid vaccinations were highly effective in both preventing infection and preventing the spread of infection;

WHEREAS, while CDC guidelines are evidence-based and document that fully vaccinated individuals may safely congregate in indoor spaces with both fully vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, the CDC cautions that these guidelines should be interpreted in the context of local SARS-CoV-2 transmission and vaccination levels;

WHEREAS, widespread use of cloth face masks, surgical masks, and N-95/KN-95 respirator masks have been demonstrated to control the spread of COVID-19 by reducing the transmission of respiratory droplets and aerosols from infected individuals into the environment from asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic, and symptomatic individuals infected with SARS-CoV-2, particularly in indoor public space;

WHEREAS, While Jefferson County has maintained the second lowest rate of COVID-19 transmission and the highest percentage of fully vaccinated residents in Washington State, COVID-19 transmission remains extremely high elsewhere in the State with a 2 week case rate of 244/100K as of the date of this proclamation;

WHEREAS, indoor transmission of COVID-19 remains a significant risk for all unvaccinated individuals (both unvaccinated adults as well as children under 12 years old who are not eligible for vaccination) and for those who are immunosuppressed and may be incompletely protected by vaccination;

WHEREAS, while indoor events involving only fully vaccinated individuals appear to be very low risk for transmission, it is not currently feasible to assess the vaccination status of every person entering a place of business or indoor public space;

WHEREAS, Unvaccinated individuals congregating without masks in indoor spaces poses an unacceptable risk of increased transmission of SARS-CoV-2 between those who are infected and those who are susceptible to this infection;

WHEREAS, RCW 70.05.070 requires and empowers the local health officer to take such action as is necessary to control and prevent the spread of any contagious or infectious diseases within the jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, WAC 246-100-036, requires the local health officer, when necessary, to institute disease control measures as he or she deems necessary based on his or her professional judgment, current standards of practice, and the best available medical and scientific information; and

WHEREAS, in order to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Jefferson County and protect our susceptible populations (unvaccinated adults and children and the immunosuppressed), in my professional judgment, based on the current standards

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas Locke, MD, MPH, Local Health Officer for Jefferson County, under the authority of RCW 70.05.070, RCW 43.20.050, and WAC 246-100-036, and on the basis of the foregoing recitals modify my Health Officer Directive of May 26, 2020, make the following DIRECTIVE:

1. Public Spaces Covered by this DIRECTIVE. This DIRECTIVE applies to indoor spaces that are open to the public, including retail, grocery stores, government buildings, and other

businesses and places where members of the public can enter freely; it does not apply to indoor non-public spaces, including businesses, offices, and other places of employment with limited access. Employers should continue to follow current guidance and requirements from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries on worker safety.

2. Use of Appropriate Face Coverings. All individuals must wear approved face coverings over their noses and mouths when they will be at indoor public places, including all businesses and other publicly accessible indoor locations. Face coverings are not required by this directive for outdoor events although unvaccinated individuals and those who are immunosuppressed are advised to maintain physical distancing from non-household members and masking is recommended if distancing cannot be maintained.

Approved face coverings include cloth face masks, synthetic fabric surgical masks (aka procedural masks), and high efficiency particulate masks (N-95 and KN-95). Bandanas and gaiter-type masks are discouraged but if used should have at least 2 layers of fabric and light should not be visible through the mask. Face shields may be worn in addition to an approved mask but are not a substitute for an approved face covering except in occupational settings where Labor and Industry rules allow a face shield with an attached fabric collar;

Wearing of cloth face coverings should not be required for the following individuals:

- (a) any child under two years of age;
- (b) any child who is at least two and less than five years of age unless a parent or caregiver supervises the use of cloth face coverings by children to avoid misuse;
- (c) any individual who is unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance;
- (d) any individual who is deaf and uses facial and mouth movements for communication purposes; or
- (e) any individual who can provide evidence that a licensed medical professional has advised them that wearing a face covering poses a significant health risk to that individual.

3. Cloth Face Coverings Required. Owners and operators of businesses in Jefferson County covered by this DIRECTIVE shall not permit or allow any non-employee to enter or remain inside a building owned or operated by the business unless the non-employee is wearing an approved face covering over their mouth and nostrils. This does not apply to a restaurant, tavern, or bar patron while eating or drinking. Further, businesses that sell food, medicine, or medical supplies shall provide a method for customers to purchase these items without entering a building, such as curbside pick-up or delivery.

4. Notice by Businesses, Ports, and Marina Facilities. Owners and operators of all businesses, ports, and/or marina facilities in Jefferson County that are covered by this DIRECTIVE shall post notice at entry points indicating that the wearing of approved face coverings is required inside businesses in Jefferson County. Said notice shall be posted no later than 7 days after the

date of this directive. This paragraph does not require posting of notice by a business that is not open to the public.

5. Exception for indoor events in which all participants are verified to be fully immunized with a COVID vaccination. Indoor events (e.g., sporting, live entertainment, weddings, birthday celebrations) in which all attendees have been verified to be fully immunized (14 days after the second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or 14 days after a single dose of J & J (Janssen) vaccine) that are otherwise allowed by the Governor's current proclamations are exempt from this masking mandate. Events that have a special section for fully vaccinated individuals and where vaccination is verified are also exempt within the special section designated for the fully immunized. Proof of vaccination (a copy of a CDC vaccination card or a copy of a Washington Immunization Information System [WAIS] record of vaccination) may be accepted as proof of COVID vaccination.

This order shall remain in effect until further order of the County Health Officer following a determination that the wearing of cloth face coverings is no longer necessary for all county residents.

DATED this ____7____ day of ____June_____, 2021 at ____4:00____pm.



Thomas Locke, MD, MPH
Jefferson County Health Officer