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July 2, 2020

THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE AT 12:01 P.M., FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2020

EMERGENCY ORDER #7

(Face Masks Mandatory and Public Gatherings Limited to 10 Persons)

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Ennis, Texas at a duly called meeting convened on Tuesday, March 17th, 2020, declared a local state of disaster due to public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the public's health and slow the spread of COVID-19, the following actions are ordered and enforceable by law. This order remains in full force and effect until rescinded by order of the Mayor.

WHEREAS, we must give our health and medical professionals the time they need to prepare for our friends and neighbors who are going to become very, very sick. Every day we give them will ensure the patients receive the critical care they need!

WHEREAS, due to recent substantial increases in COVID-19 positive cases, and increases in the COVID-19 positivity rate and hospitalizations resulting from COVID 19, further measures are needed to achieve the least restrictive means for reducing the growing spread of COVID-19, and to avoid a need for more extreme measures; and

WHEREAS, medical experts consistently encourage people to use face coverings, and health authorities have repeatedly emphasized that wearing face coverings is one of the most important and effective tools for reducing the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, given the current status of COVID-19 in Texas, Ellis County and the City of Ennis requiring the use of face coverings is a targeted response that can combat the threat to public health using the least restrictive means, and if people follow this requirement, more extreme measures may be avoided; and

WHEREAS, wearing a face covering is important not only to protect oneself, but also to avoid unknowingly harming fellow Texans, especially given that many people who go into public may have COVID-19 without knowing it because they have no symptoms; and

WHEREAS: State of Texas, Executive Order GA-28 was amended to delete from paragraph number 15 the phrase: “, but no jurisdiction can impose a civil or criminal penalty for failure to wear a face covering.”

WHEREAS: State of Texas, Executive Order GA-28 was amended to read as follows: For any outdoor gathering in excess of 10 people, other than those set forth above in paragraph numbers 1, 2, or 4, the gathering is prohibited unless the mayor of the city in which the gathering is held, or the county judge in the case of a gathering in an unincorporated area, approves of the gathering, and such approval can be made subject to certain conditions or restrictions not inconsistent with this executive order;.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Angeline Juenemann, Mayor of the City of Ennis, Texas by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a citywide basis effective at 12:01 p.m. on July 3, 2020:

SECTION 1: All outdoor gatherings are limited to 10 persons.

SECTION 2: All persons within the corporate limits of the City of Ennis, are required to;

1. Wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial entity or other building or space open to the public.
2. When in an outdoor public space, wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household.

SECTION 3: The face-covering requirement does not apply to the following:

1. Any person younger than 10 years of age;
2. Any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
3. Any person while the person is consuming food or drink, or is seated at a restaurant to eat or drink;
4. Any person while the person is (a) exercising outdoors or engaging in physical activity outdoors, and (b) maintaining a safe distance from other people not in the same household;
5. Any person while the person is driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;
6. Any person obtaining a service that requires temporary removal of the face covering for security surveillance, screening, or a need for specific access to the face, such as while visiting a bank or while obtaining a personal care service involving the face, but only to the extent necessary for the temporary removal;

7. Any person while the person is in a swimming pool, lake, or similar body of water;
8. Any person who is voting, assisting a voter, serving as a poll watcher, or actively administering an election, but wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged;
9. Any person who is actively providing or obtaining access to religious worship, but wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged;
10. Any person while the person is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience; or

SECTION 4: Not exempted from this face-covering requirement is any person attending a protest or demonstration involving more than 10 people and who is not practicing safe social distancing of six feet from other people not in the same household.

SECTION 5: Following a verbal or written warning for a first-time violator of this face covering requirement, a person's second violation shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250. Each subsequent violation shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250 per violation.

SECTION 6: The Ennis Police Department and other local officials, as appropriate, will enforce this order, Emergency Order # 7, Executive Order GA-28, and other effective orders. No law enforcement or other official may detain, arrest, or confine in jail any person for a violation of this order or for related non-violent, non-felony offenses that are predicated on a violation of this order; provided, however, that any official with authority to enforce this executive order may act to enforce trespassing laws and remove violators at the request of a business establishment or other property owner.

SECTION 7: This order hereby prohibits confinement in jail as a penalty for the violation of any face-covering order.

ANGELINE JUENEMANN, Mayor
City of Ennis, Texas

ATTEST:

ANGIE WADE, City Secretary
City of Ennis, Texas