

EMERGENCY ORDER REQUIRING THAT FACE COVERINGS OR MASKS  
BE WORN IN PUBLIC IN THE CITY OF HINESVILLE DURING THE  
COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the state of Georgia remains under a state of emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Governor Brian P. Kemp has relaxed and/or removed many restrictions on businesses resulting in citizens and visitors interacting in public and commercial establishments; and

WHEREAS, the guidelines promulgated by the White House on re-opening America specifically call for a 14-day downward trajectory among other gating criteria, which guidelines are specifically incorporated by reference; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of infection and death in the metropolitan Savannah area has consistently risen signifying the continued spread of the highly contagious and deadly disease; and

WHEREAS, the number of cases in Liberty County, Georgia is growing rapidly and if COVID-19 continues to spread in Coastal Georgia, the number of persons relying on medical, pharmaceutical, and general cleaning supplies will increase, the private and public sector work force will be negatively impacted by absenteeism, and the demand for medical facilities may exceed locally available resources; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") advises that the use of masks or cloth face coverings will slow the spread of COVID-19, and the CDC recommendations on PPE usage are hereby incorporated by reference; and

WHEREAS, taking early and preventative measures to control outbreaks minimizes the risk to the public, maintains the health and the safety of the City's residents, and limits the spread of infection in our communities and within the healthcare delivery system; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important that *we all work together* to decrease the widespread proliferation of COVID-19 among us all now rather than suffer the unfortunate and devastating medical and economic consequences later; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority of O.C.G.A. § 38-3-28(a), local governments are specifically empowered to enact rules and regulations as may be necessary for emergency management purposes; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 38-3-28(a) also grants political subdivisions the power to supplement the Governor's Executive Orders; and

WHEREAS, this order is intended to be entered with due regard to the uniform principle that face masks or face coverings will slow the spread of COVID-19 as contemplated by O.C.G.A. § 38-3-28(c); and

WHEREAS, this emergency order is authorized by O.C.G.A. §§ 38-3-4 and 38-3-28 and the local control provisions of Governor Kemp's Executive Order 08.15.20.01 and it is specifically intended to supplement such declaration, as amended, and should not be construed to be inconsistent therewith; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Mayor of the City of Hinesville, with advice from the City Manager and other subject matter experts, emergency conditions persist within the City requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Hinesville.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, AND ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF HINESVILLE, GEORGIA, DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE SAME, AS FOLLOWS:

1. For the purpose of this Order, a "Face Covering" is a cloth or other type of masking device that covers the wearer's nose and mouth.
2. It is mandated that all persons entering any building open to the public in the City must wear a face covering or mask while inside the building. Additionally, all persons must wear a face covering in outdoor public settings where they are in groups of more than 10 people and a distance of 6 feet between non-cohabiting individuals cannot be maintained.
3. All restaurants, retail establishments of every description, salons, grocery stores, and pharmacies in the municipal limits of the City must adhere to the Governor's Executive Orders issued 08.31.20, and any subsequent Executive Orders issued by the Governor of the State of Georgia, in order to meet their industry's prescribed preventative measures.
4. The following individuals are exempt from this Order: any person who is unable to safely wear a Face Covering due to age or an underlying health condition, any person who is unable to remove the Face Covering without the assistance of others or any person with a bona fide religious objection to wearing a face covering. This Order does not relieve business establishments and restaurants from other social distancing requirements imposed by the Governor's Executive Orders.
5. Face Coverings are also not required in the following circumstances:
  - a. Inside personal vehicles;
  - b. When a person is alone in enclosed spaces, such as their personal residence, group sleeping quarters, or only with other household members;
  - c. During physical activity, provided the active person maintains a minimum of 6 feet from other people with whom they do not cohabit at all times;
  - d. While drinking, eating, or smoking;
  - e. When wearing a face covering causes or aggravates a health condition;
  - f. When wearing a face covering would prevent the receipt of personal services; and
  - g. When a person is 10 years of age or younger.
6. Education and voluntary compliance are the desired means of enforcement. Per Executive Order 08.15.20.01, prior to begin issued a citation, noncompliant individuals shall be warned about the health risks posed by not wearing a face mask or face covering. The City shall make a good faith effort to distribute face coverings in our jurisdiction to individuals who cannot afford a face mask or face covering by having masks available for distribution by police officers or in the lobby of City Hall. However, a

person who fails to comply with any mandatory provision of this Order shall be deemed guilty of a civil infraction, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$50 pursuant to Section 1 – 12 and Section 7 – 57 of the City Code and Executive Order 08.15.20.01 and Executive Order 08.31.20.02 by the Governor of the State of Georgia. Each day of a continuing violation of this Order shall be considered a separate and distinct offense.

In addition to the fines established in this paragraph, repeated violations of this Order by a person may, subject to all procedural protections set forth in the City Code, result in being declared a public nuisance, which may be abated by the City as provided by law. The foregoing notwithstanding every effort shall be made to bring the individual into voluntary compliance with the terms of this Order prior to the issuance of any citation.

For the purposes of this Order, “person” shall be defined as any individual traveling, residing or conducting business within the City of Hinesville.

7. Buildings open to the public shall post conspicuous signage at all entrances informing its patrons of the requirements of this Order.

8. The City of Hinesville will abide by measures outlined in Executive Order 08.15.20.01 and 08.31.20.02 not previously mentioned regarding the regulations for Local Option Face Covering Requirements.

9. Should any provision, section, paragraph, sentence, or word of this Order be rendered or declared invalid by any final court action in a court of competent jurisdiction or by reason of any preemptive legislation, the remaining provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences, or words of this Order as hereby adopted shall remain in full force and effect.

10. This Order becomes effective at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 and shall be in effect until rescinded or until the Governor’s Public Health Emergency expires on October 10, 2020, whichever comes first.

SO DECLARED at 2:10 a.m. (p.m.) on Tuesday, September 21, 2020.



Allen Brown,  
Mayor of Hinesville



Sarah Lumpkin,  
City Clerk, Hinesville