

1 **CITY OF HOMER**  
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

3 Lord

4 **RESOLUTION 20-131**

5  
6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA  
7 URGING BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS TO EMPLOY BASIC  
8 COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES SUCH AS MASKING AND SOCIAL  
9 DISTANCING TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 AND  
10 PROTECT OUR PUBLIC HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS AND HEALTHCARE  
11 WORKERS.

12  
13 WHEREAS, On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and  
14 Human Services Secretary, Alex Azar, declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus  
15 (COVID-19) beginning on January 27, 2020; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19  
18 outbreak a pandemic; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, On March 11, Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy signed a Public Health Disaster  
21 Emergency Declaration due to COVID-19 that provided for health mandates to be issued when  
22 deemed necessary by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Chief  
23 Medical Officer, the Alaska Division of Public Health and the Office of the Governor; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, On April 3, 2020 the White House Coronavirus Task Force and the CDC  
26 confirmed that in addition to sanitation, contact tracing and quarantine, practicing social  
27 distancing and wearing a cloth face covering in public settings represented the best ways to  
28 mitigate exposure to and the spread of COVID-19; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, Governor Dunleavy's initial Health Mandates and more recent COVID-19  
31 Outbreak Health Orders iterate these necessary and appropriate mitigation actions to protect  
32 the health, safety, and welfare of Alaska's residents and visitors, but to date, do not require  
33 Alaska's residents and visitors to wear a cloth face covering in public settings where social  
34 distance cannot be maintained; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, Despite Governor Dunleavy's assertion, the City of Homer lacks the authority  
37 under the law or under statutory powers delegated by the State Constitution to enact and  
38 enforce health mandates such as requiring face coverings, even in declared emergency; and

39  
40 WHEREAS, Eight months into the COVID-19 pandemic, Alaska is experiencing  
41 exponential growth of COVID-19 cases, which according to Department of Health and Social

42 Services had increased on December 6 to 36,196 cases statewide, with 483 of those cases  
43 recorded in South Peninsula Hospital's Service Area; and

44

45 WHEREAS, Of the total 403 positive test results recorded at South Peninsula Hospital,  
46 over one-third were reported in the past two weeks, indicating significant local transmission  
47 and the need for increased preventative measures; and

48

49 WHEREAS, The rapid escalation in COVID-19 cases threatens public mental and physical  
50 health and welfare through:

51

- 52 • Exceeding the capacity of Public Health Nurses to keep up with contact tracing,
- 53 • Threatening the capacity of our hospital and medical staff to provide care to all who  
54 need it, not just COVID-19 patients,
- 55 • Business and service interruptions and job loss which contribute to economic  
56 slowdown and family financial instability,
- 57 • Requiring Kenai Peninsula Borough schools to move to remote learning; and

58

59 WHEREAS, Mask-wearing and social distancing are evidence-based practices that slow  
60 the rapid escalation of COVID-19 cases and are of paramount necessity to keep our hospitals  
61 stable, save lives, and keep local businesses and schools open; and

62

63 WHEREAS, The City of Homer is leading by example by requiring facial coverings in all  
64 City facilities and is available to continue supporting businesses and individuals to the best of  
65 our ability; and

66

67 WHEREAS, We can best get through this time as a community working together to care  
68 for ourselves and for one another.

69

70 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Homer City Council, based on  
71 the recommendations of public health experts and in response to a serious threat to the public  
72 health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, hereby strongly urge all businesses, establishments,  
73 corporations, non-profit corporations and organizations located within the City to require  
74 employees and customers to wear cloth face coverings in accordance with CDC guidelines.

75

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Homer City Council strongly urge all  
77 residents and visitors to practice six foot social distancing and to wear cloth face coverings in  
78 any indoor or outdoor environment in which people cannot practice or maintain social  
79 distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines.

80

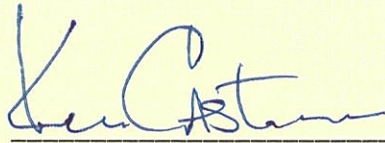
81 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020.

82

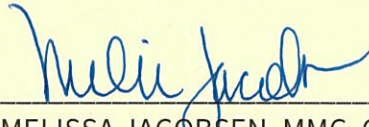
83

CITY OF HOMER

84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94

  
KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: N/A

