



## COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### **I have heard a lot about Ordinances Vs Resolutions, what is the difference?**

Typically, ordinances are expected to be uniform and permanent. They are “laws” enacted by a municipality with a component of enforcement and penalties for persons violating that ordinance.

A resolution is typically used to address a specific situation for a specific period of time. It is more of a policy that a municipality adopts which is not directly enforced. In this case its purpose is to provide guidance and make specific recommendations that will help our residents and businesses stay healthy and avoid further spikes in cases.

### **Great, now that I know the difference, is the City of Waupaca looking to adopt a Face Mask Ordinance or Resolution?**

At this time, the City of Waupaca is discussing the possible adoption of a resolution.

### **When would it take effect? How long would it go for?**

The resolution would take effect on August 11<sup>th</sup> and run through October 30<sup>th</sup>. The resolution can be extended or ended by the city council at any time. It would also end if there's a higher order – for example, a statewide mask order that comes from the Governor or Waupaca County Public Health.

### **What counts as a mask or face covering?**

A mask, or face covering, is a manufactured or homemade cloth covering that *fully* covers an individual's nose and mouth.

### **Where should I wear a mask?**

The resolution says people should wear masks anytime within indoor public facilities. Public facilities can be defined as public or privately owned indoor space in which the general public has access to.

This resolution makes it mandatory for anyone entering a City operated facility to wear masks while inside the publicly accessible areas of that facility (ie... Recreation Center,

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Library, City Hall, etc...) There may be specific rules set by the facility managers that outline exceptions. An example of an exception may be while exercising at the Rec Center or Senior Center. Waupaca Taxi is included as a City operated facility and masks are mandatory for drivers and taxi users.

**What can I do about my kids? I really struggle to get them to wear a mask.**

The resolution does not recommended mask wearing for children under 4. It does state that parents and caregivers should help kids above 4 to wear masks for as long as they're able and comfortable.

**Do outdoor businesses fall under this resolution?**

No. Business that primarily operate outdoors are not written into the resolution.

**The business I work at isn't open to the public but isn't following good practices on letting employees wear masks or stay 6 feet apart from each other. Does this resolution address that?**

No. If the business isn't open to the general public, or if there are areas of the business that are not open to the general public, it's up to the business whether to require masks for employees in those areas.

**I saw someone not wearing a mask at a store. Can I report them?**

We ask that you please do not confront other people – you can't know their situation, or their reason for not wearing a mask. Business owners/employees will be responsible for implementing the resolution.

**I went to a business and nobody was wearing masks. What should I do?**

Remember, the City has enacted a resolution and not an ordinance. This means that individual mask wearing will not be policed by the City. The purpose of the resolution is to provide guidance to our residents and businesses. The best solution in most cases is to simply leave if you don't feel comfortable.

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**Does this resolution apply to certified in-home daycare and daycare centers?**

One of the resolution's exemptions is "persons in settings where it is not practical or feasible to wear a face covering". This is basically stating that it is up to, in this case the daycare, if it is practical or feasible. The resolution recommends face masks for kids 4 years old and over.

**I have a legitimate health concern where I can't wear a mask, and I do need to be in public. How do I deal with this? Do I have to wear a sign on my shirt or something? Can I get an exemption?**

It's a really good question. We're certainly not asking people to carry papers, notes from doctors or wear signs. We're really relying on folks – customers, employees, everyone in public – to use common sense, good judgment, and lots of compassion.

We can't guarantee you won't be asked to leave. If this happens please respect the business's policies and their efforts to keep their employees and patrons safe.

**Genuine question as a bartender: Does this mean no one can stand around at the bar without a mask on and drink? Like only if you are seated, can you remove your mask to drink?**

Generally, people ordering drinks at a bar should be wearing a mask, while those seated on barstools may not be.

Bar and restaurant owners should refer to the guidelines set forth by the WEDC. Guidelines can be found at the link below.

[https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-19-Restaurants-and-Food-Service-Guidelines\\_cl.pdf](https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-19-Restaurants-and-Food-Service-Guidelines_cl.pdf)

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**What about eating at a restaurant? How am I supposed to eat or drink if the restaurant follows the resolution?**

Our general recommendation is that customers wear a mask while in the restaurant until they are seated at their table at which point they would take off their mask for their meal.

Again, Bar and restaurant owners should refer to the guidelines set forth by the WEDC as seen below.

[https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-19-Restaurants-and-Food-Service-Guidelines\\_cl.pdf](https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-19-Restaurants-and-Food-Service-Guidelines_cl.pdf)

**What about being outside – parks, public places, hiking trails and such? Do I have to wear a mask?**

Nope. The resolution only applies to indoor spaces. We want to see folks outside – it's safer and healthier (not to mention beautiful). Please practice 6 feet of physical distancing, change your pace to pass or wait for others to pass you, and wear masks if you're in groups and can't physically distance.

**I live in an apartment building. My neighbors are always talking to each other in the hallway without wearing masks. What do I do about that?**

The resolution only applies to indoor public spaces. An apartment building is a private residence therefore would not be a part of this recommendation. We would recommend checking with the landlord and abiding by any policies they may have in place.

**Aren't some summer sports happening? What is the recommendation at these events?**

The resolution only applies to indoor spaces. That being said, we strongly encourage folk's outdoors in groups to respect the 6-foot physical distance guidelines and wear masks if physical distancing is not possible.

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### **Why now?**

A citywide mask resolution was the appropriate step in making a difference before experiencing a greater increase in cases. The rising number of COVID-19 cases in Waupaca County is troubling. We feel that the sooner our community can abide by these guidelines, the faster we can return to a sense of normal.

### **What happens if I don't comply?**

We really hope you do. This is about having compassion and care for your neighbors. But in the case that a person does not to comply, they will likely be asked to leave. If they refuse, law enforcement may enforce trespassing and/or disorderly conduct laws.

### **Why not just ask people to voluntarily wear masks?**

Since mid-June, the city has been extensively promoting CDC recommended safe practices including masking through social media and other local media outlets. We feel that this promotion effort has been successful and we'll continue promoting this campaign throughout the duration of the resolution. Having said that, cases continue to rise in our area and across Waupaca County. Because of the rising cases we felt like stronger guidance was needed to assist in preventing a worse situation.

### **As a business owner how do people know that I support this resolution?**

The City of Waupaca has created a downloadable PDF that can be used as a sign and posted at your businesses entrance if you choose to use it. The sign will be available on the City of Waupaca's website. It will also be available in hard copy form at City Hall.

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