

RESOLUTION OF THE ELKHART COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ENDORSING  
THE ELKHART COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S  
GUIDANCE ON WEARING FACE COVERINGS  
AND  
RECOMMENDING A REDUCTION IN THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ATTENDEES AT ANY  
PRIVATE OR PUBLIC GATHERING

WHEREAS, the Elkhart County Commissioners are interested in taking measures to maintain and grow the Elkhart County economy by:

- A. Keeping Elkhart County businesses open and Elkhart County residents employed.
- B. Addressing the needs identified by the Elkhart County hospital systems, medical professionals, and business owners, who have asked for Elkhart County to require face coverings.
- C. Assisting the residents and businesses of Elkhart County that jointly share the responsibility of maintaining community health.
- D. Ensuring Elkhart County resident have safe work environments, safe outlets for recreation, and safe environments at home.
- E. Preparing the best means for allowing schools to reopen in the Fall.

WHEREAS, the Elkhart County Commissioners recognize that the data surrounding COVID-19's impact on Elkhart County since businesses began to reopen and social gatherings began to increase in size and frequency suggests that the State could take additional measures to restrict Elkhart County activities in a way that negatively impacts the economy of Elkhart County.

WHEREAS, the following summarizes the change in Elkhart County's COVID-19 activity since businesses were allowed to begin reopening and the permitted size and frequency of private and public gatherings increased:

- A. On May 1, 2020, Governor Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-26, which initiated Stage 2 for Elkhart County of the Governor's plan to reopen businesses and entities and increased the size of private and public gatherings from 10 to 25.
- B. On May 1, 2020, Elkhart County had 295 positive COVID-19 cases, representing 1.5% of the total positive COVID-19 cases in the state of Indiana.

C. During the three weeks of Stage 2, Elkhart County over tripled its COVID-19 positive cases moving from 295 to 895 positive COVID-19 cases on May 21, 2020.

D. The 600 new positive COVID-19 cases in Elkhart County represented 5.4% of the total new positive COVID-19 cases confirmed throughout the State of Indiana during Stage 2.

E. On May 21, 2020, Governor Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-28, which initiated Stage 3 for Elkhart County of the Governor's plan to reopen businesses and entities and increased the size of private and public gatherings from 25 to 100.

F. During the three weeks of Stage 3, Elkhart County over doubled its COVID-19 positive cases moving from 895 to 1927 positive COVID-19 cases on June 11, 2020.

G. The 1032 new positive COVID-19 cases in Elkhart County represented 11.8% of the total new positive COVID-19 cases confirmed throughout the State of Indiana during Stage 3.

H. On June 11, 2020, Governor Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-32, which initiated Stage 4 for Elkhart County of the Governor's plan to reopen businesses and entities and increased the size of private and public gatherings from 100 to 250.

I. Section 3.a of Executive Order 20-32 strongly encourages the use of face coverings by all Hoosiers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Elkhart, Indiana as follows:

1. The Elkhart County Commissioners fully endorse and support the Guidance on Wearing Face Coverings issued by the Elkhart County Health Department on June 12, 2020 ("Guidance").

2. The Elkhart County Commissioners strongly recommend that all residents and visitors of Elkhart County fully comply with the Guidance and, subject to the exceptions set forth in the Guidance, wear face coverings any time they are at:

- a. an indoor area open to the public, including public transportation;
- b. an outdoor public area where a distance of 6 feet from individuals outside of their household cannot be maintained; or
- c. a private indoor or outdoor area where a distance of 6 feet from individuals outside of their household cannot be maintained.

3. The Elkhart County Commissioners strongly recommend that all employers in Elkhart County amend their COVID-19 continued operations plan, first established per the mandate included in Section 4 of Executive Order 20-26 and still required by Section 5.b of Executive Order 20-32, to strongly encourage or require all employees and visitors to wear face coverings in accordance with the Guidance.

4. The Elkhart County Commissioners remind all residents that Stage 4 outlined in Executive Order 20-32 still requires open businesses and public and private gatherings to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet of separation between all individuals of different households.

5. The Elkhart County Commissioners strongly recommend that all Elkhart County private and public gatherings be limited to 50 people. The one exception to this strong recommendation is for any events that have already received approval from the Elkhart County Health Department after a review of the safety and protective measures established for the event (e.g. graduation ceremonies).

RESOLVED this 15th day of June, 2020.


BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
THE COUNTY OF ELKHART, INDIANA

By:   
Mike Yoder, President

By:   
Frank R. Lucchese, Vice President

By:   
Suzanne Weirick, Member

ATTEST:

  
Patricia A. Pickens, Elkhart County Auditor