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FACIAL COVERINGS REQUIRED

Per Health Officer Order Directive #2020-2

1, Thomas Locke, MD, MPH, Local Health Officer for Jefferson County, under the authority of RCW 70.05.070, RCW 43.20.050, and WAC 246-100-036, make the following DIRECTIVE:

1. Use of Cloth Face Coverings. All individuals must wear face coverings over their noses and mouths when they will be at (1) indoor public settings, or (2) outdoor public locations and cannot maintain distancing of approximately six feet from another individual who does not share their household. Because there is still a shortage of medical-grade or N95 respirators for health care workers, unless a particular health reason requires it, individuals should use fabric coverings, such as cloth face masks, scarves and bandana coverings or other material as recommended by CDC. Cloth face masks must be worn properly in order to avoid contaminating the hands or face of the user. Before putting on a mask and after removing a mask, an individual should clean their hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water and change masks when moist and wash after use. While in use, avoid touching the mask. Worn masks may be contaminated with infectious agents.

Wearing of cloth face coverings should not be required for the following individuals:

(a) any child under two years of age;
(b) any child who is at least two and less than twelve years of age unless a parent or caregiver supervises the use of cloth face coverings by children to avoid misuse;
(c) any individual who is unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance;
(d) any individual who is deaf and uses facial and mouth movements as part of communication; or
(e) any individual who has been advised by a medical professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that individual for health reasons.

2. Cloth Face Coverings Required. Owners and operators of businesses in Jefferson County shall not permit or allow any non-employee to enter or remain inside a building owned or operated by the business unless the non-employee is wearing a cloth face covering over their mouth and nostrils. This does not apply to a restaurant, tavern, or bar patron while eating or drinking. Further, businesses that sell food, medicine, or medical supplies shall provide a method for customers to purchase these items without entering a building, such as curbside pick-up or delivery.

3. Notice by Businesses, Ports, and Marina Facilities. Owners and operators of all businesses, ports, and/or marina facilities in Jefferson County shall post notice at entry points indicating that the wearing of cloth face coverings is required inside businesses in Jefferson County. Said notice shall be posted no later than 7 days after Jefferson County begins full implementation of Phase II of the Safe Start Washington plan as authorized by the Governor or Washington Secretary of Health. This paragraph does not require posting of notice by a business that is not open to the public.

4. Definitions. “Cloth face covering” means a soft cloth or fabric covering that is worn on the face and fully covers a person’s mouth and nostrils, such as a protective mask, scarf, bandana, or any more protective covering. CDC guidance regarding the wearing and making of cloth face coverings can be found at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html.

5. Social Distancing and Hand Washing. A cloth face covering does not replace the need to adhere to social distancing standards or requirements, wash hands frequently, and avoiding touching of the face.

6. Critical Supplies. Surgical masks and N-95 respirators are critical supplies that should be reserved for health care workers, medical first responders, and other workers as recommended by CDC guidance. Such items should not be worn as cloth face coverings unless necessary.

Section 2 of this order is effective on after Jefferson County begins full implementation of Phase II of the Safe Start Washington plan as authorized by the Governor or Washington Secretary of Health. All other provisions of this order are effective at midnight on June 1, 2020.

This order shall remain in effect until further order of the County Health Officer following a determination that the wearing of cloth face coverings is no longer necessary.

DATED this __28____ day of ___MAY________, 2020 at ___4:00___ pm.

Thomas Locke, MD, MPH
Jefferson County Health Officer