

ORDINANCE NO. 21-07

**AN UNCODIFIED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE 21-01 TO MANDATE THAT INDIVIDUALS WEAR A FACE COVERING IN PUBLIC WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS; DECLARING THIS ORDINANCE TO BE AN EMERGENCY MEASURE; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE AND SUNSET DATE.**

WHEREAS, the City of Key West finds that it is necessary to amend Emergency Ordinance 21-01; and

WHEREAS, the City of Key West finds that Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) presents a danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has stated "[b]eing in a group with people who aren't social distancing or wearing cloth face coverings increases your risk" of contracting COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the CDC continues to recommend that every community fully observe social distancing, wear facial coverings, and fully adhere to the sanitation requirements stated in the CDC Guidelines in order to minimize the risk of a dramatic increase in infections that might overwhelm the available public health resources and require closure of amenities and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the CDC's recommendations regarding mask wearing are based on studies that show evidence of the effectiveness of masks and that masks reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose

and mouth, as described in the following link:  
[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/\\_cloth-face-cover-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/_cloth-face-cover-guidance.html); and

WHEREAS, these CDC recommendations, and the findings they are based on, are incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, the State Health Officer and Surgeon General has issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency, stating that COVID-19 is a threat to public health in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the State Health Officer and Surgeon General has issued a Public Health Advisory stating “[a]ll individuals should wear face coverings in any setting where social distancing is not possible”; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a health risk to City of Key West residents, visitors, and workers, particularly the elderly and those who are immunosuppressed or otherwise have high-risk medical conditions and the long-term effects of COVID-19 on persons who recover are currently unknown; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to be a threat to the safety and welfare of City of Key West residents, visitors, and workers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Key West finds the inconvenience of an ordinance requiring the use of face coverings is minimal compared to the risk to the health, safety, and welfare of the community were no such rule imposed; and

WHEREAS, the City of Key West finds implementation of this

ordinance is in the best interest of, and necessary for, the preservation of the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled, and that the residents, workers, and visitors in the City of Key West remain safe and secure and that this ordinance promotes business operation and economic recovery while maintaining focus on core safety principals and slowing the spread of COVID-19, and minimizing positive reported cases of COVID-19 within the City of Key West; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has not preempted local governments from regulating in the field of minimum health requirements with respect to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Manager of the City of Key West have previously issued emergency directives requiring the use of face coverings pursuant to § 252.46, Fla. Stat., that are enforceable as misdemeanors by law enforcement though F.S. 252.47 and F.S. 252.50; and

WHEREAS, the City of Key West remains under a State of Local Emergency, adopting regulations via ordinance would permit additional enforcement options and impose additional requirements for establishments within the City of Key West that fail to comply with the established guidelines; and

WHEREAS, 28 C.F.R. 36.208, the implementing regulations for the

Americans with Disabilities Act states that the ADA does not require a public accommodation to permit an individual to participate in or benefit from the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and accommodations of that public accommodation when that individual poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others; and customers with disabilities who may be unable, due to their disability, to wear a face mask may access the goods and services of the businesses through the provisions of curbside service or home delivery; and

WHEREAS, the Third District Court of Appeal has defined the term business establishment for purposes of tort liability to mean "a location where business is conducted, goods are made or stored or processed or where services are rendered." *Publix Supermarkets, Inc. v. Santos*, 118 So.3d 317 (Fla. 3d DCA 2013); and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has defined the term "transient public lodging establishment". See F.S. 509.013(4)(a)(1); and

WHEREAS, on January 5, 2021, the City of Key West adopted Emergency Ordinance 21-01, thereby amending Emergency Ordinance 20-18, requiring individuals to use facial coverings as defined in the ordinance with enumerated exceptions, penalties and enforcement mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, the medical experts consulted by the City believe that this Amendment mandating more widespread mask use was critical in flattening the curve of infection in July and August; and

WHEREAS, widespread, consistent, usage of masks and other facial coverings will help the City to avoid future business closures, provide confidence to business customers and tourists, and help limit economic harm to the community; and

WHEREAS, wearing masks and other facial coverings is a more cost-effective means of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic than business closures or other solutions; and

WHEREAS, masks and other facial coverings are now required by many private businesses nation-wide of their customers such as airlines, amusement parks, and grocery stores; and

WHEREAS, historically, Key West has a high-density population when compared to its geographical space which makes it extremely difficult to socially distance; and

WHEREAS, risks of transmission are lower outdoors than indoors, due to greater air flow and circulation outdoors; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-244, declaring the State of Florida to be in Phase 3; and

WHEREAS, medical experts across the nation have cautioned that another wave of COVID-19 infections is likely in the fall; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislatures has stated that "[s]afeguarding the life and property of its citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision of the state" such as Monroe County and its five municipalities; F.S.

252.38.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, THAT UNCODIFIED EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 21-01 IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1:**        **Findings.** The above recitals are adopted by the City Commission as legislative findings.

**Section 2:**        **Definitions.** For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a)    "*Face Covering(s)*" shall mean a material that covers the nose and mouth and may include a face mask, homemade mask, or other cloth covering, such as a scarf, bandana, handkerchief or other similar cloth covering. If a face shield is used, it must be worn in conjunction with a face covering.
- (b)    "*Social Distancing*" shall mean keeping space between yourself and other persons by staying a minimum of 6 feet away from other person(s).
- (c)    "*Business Establishment*" is defined as a location where business is conducted, goods are made or stored or processed or where services are rendered. The term "business establishment" shall also include locations where non-profit, governmental, and quasi-governmental entities facilitate public interactions and conduct business. The definition shall include the entire premises of the business establishment, whether owned or leased, or indoors or outdoors. *Business Establishment* shall not include private events closed to the public.
- (d)    "*Lodging Establishment*" shall have the same meaning as the term "transient public lodging establishment" as defined in § 509.013(4)(a)(1), Fla. Stat. (2019). A lodging establishment is a type of business establishment and any reference to business establishment shall include a lodging establishment.
- (e)    "*Operator*" shall mean any individual or entity that owns a business or that controls the operation of a business, even if only for a period of time, regardless of the formal title or role held by that individual or entity.

**Section 3: Face Coverings requirements.**

- (a) All persons over the age of six (6) while physically located within the City of Key West, and who are away from their residence, shall carry a *face covering* capable of immediate use.
- (b) Unless exempt as provided in Section 4 below, every person over the age of six (6), while physically located within the City of Key West, and who is away from their residence, shall wear a face covering at all times, regardless of whether social distancing is also maintained.
- (c) The operator and/or employee of a business establishment shall ensure that every individual in that establishment complies with this ordinance.

**Section 4: Face Covering Exceptions. Masks and other**

facial coverings shall not be required:

- (1) of a *lodging establishment* guest(s) while inside the lodging unit including a hotel room, motel room, vacation rental unit, timeshare unit, or similar unit.
- (2) of Public safety, fire, law enforcement, and other life safety personnel, as their personal protective equipment requirements will be governed by their respective agencies, which shall include *facial coverings* for City of Key West personnel;
- (3) of Restaurant patrons and/or bar patrons who are seated at a table and/or counter and eating and/or seated at a table and/or counter and drinking. Persons who are not seated and are on the premises of a *business establishment*, whether indoors or outdoors, shall wear a *face covering* at all times.
- (4) of Patrons or clients of Barbershops or Cosmetology Salons, who are seated, when wearing a face covering would reasonably interfere with receiving services. Persons who are not seated and are on the premises of a *business establishment*, whether indoors or outdoors, shall wear a *face covering* at all times.
- (5) While a person is in a private, non-commercial

enclosed vehicle or private, non-commercial vessel.

- (6) These requirements do not apply within a workplace area not otherwise open to the public while a person is complying with engineering, administrative, and work practice controls and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements, developed in accordance with the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) mitigation and contingency planning document entitled "Guidance for Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19" (as it may be amended, supplemented, or superseded from time to time).
- (7) of a couple exchanging vows in a ceremony are exempted from the face coverings requirement only while they are exchanging vows and/or posing for wedding photographs following the ceremony.
- (8) of Musicians and entertainers when separated from patrons and other employees by at least 10 feet *and* by a hard-surface partition with a minimum size of 4' x 8' that appropriately separates the musicians and entertainers from the audience and prevents the spread of respiratory droplets.
- (9) of Patrons of gyms while engaged in strenuous physical activity provided social distancing is maintained at all times.
- (10) The City Commission of Key West encourages Monroe County School District in conjunction with the Department of Health to develop policies regarding face covering use with regards to its students, teachers, and employees and leaves any implementation of such policies to the discretion of the Monroe County School District.
- (11) of Participants in organized sports activities which are following the guidelines and recommendations of their sanctioning body.

**Section 5:**     **Business Establishments.** In addition to the face covering requirements of this Ordinance, all Business Establishments which are operating within the City of Key West, may



continue to operate provided that each establishment complies with the face covering requirements in this Ordinance; the City of Key West's Emergency Directives and Ordinances and any and all Orders from the State of Florida and/or its agencies, as applicable, and consents to entry of City of Key West personnel onto the establishment's property for the sole purpose of inspection for compliance with this Ordinance.

**Section 6: Penalties and Enforcement.** This ordinance may be enforced in the following manner:

(a) Civil Citation.

- (1) A code compliance or law enforcement officer may, upon observation of a violation by a person who does not immediately put on a face covering after receiving a verbal warning, issue a notice to appear or civil citation to appear in County Court.
- (2) A code compliance or law enforcement officer may, upon observation of a violation of any provision of this ordinance by an operator or employee of a business establishment, after having received a verbal warning, issue a notice to appear or civil citation to appear in County Court.
- (3) Any person or business establishment prosecuted under this subsection and found in violation of this ordinance may be punished by a fine of up to \$500.00. The following schedule is applicable if the citation is paid within ten (10) days of issuance: \$250.00 for the first violation; \$350.00 for the second violation; \$450.00 for a third or subsequent violation.

(b) Administrative Notice of Violation

- (1) A code compliance officer may, upon observation of a violation by a person who does not immediately put on a face covering after receiving a verbal warning, issue a notice of

violation and notice to appear before the special magistrate.

- (2) A code compliance or law enforcement officer may, upon observation of a violation of any provision of this ordinance by an operator or employee of a business establishment, after having received a verbal warning, issue a notice of violation to the business establishment and notice to appear before the special magistrate.
- (3) Any person or business establishment found in violation of this ordinance may be fined pursuant to part I of chapter 162, Florida Statutes.

(c) Criminal.

- (1) A law enforcement officer may arrest or issue a notice to appear for any knowing and intentional violation(s) of this ordinance committed in his or her presence or through procurement of an arrest warrant by a person who does not immediately put on a face covering after having been previously warned. Violations may be prosecuted by the State Attorney of the 16th Judicial Circuit, or an Attorney for the City of Key West.
- (2) A person found in violation may be punished by up to 60 days in the County jail and/or a fine of up to \$500.00.

(d) Injunctive relief. This Ordinance may be enforced through injunctive relief through a complaint for injunctive relief in Circuit Court seeking to enjoin violations that occur within the City of Key West.

(e) Defenses.

- (1) An owner, operator, agent, manager, and/or employee (collectively "operator/employee") of a business establishment shall not be liable in any enforcement action taken under this ordinance for the violations of a guest, customer, and/or patron if that operator/employee directed that guest, customer, and/or patron, who refuses to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance, to vacate the premises or face a trespass warning or prosecution of trespass.
- (2) An individual shall not be subject to penalties

for violation of Section 3(a) and Section 3(b) of this ordinance if the individual suffers from a previously diagnosed chronic medical condition that prohibits the individual from wearing a face covering as defined in this ordinance.

**Section 7: Declaration of Emergency.** This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and necessary for the immediate preservation of the general welfare, health, and safety of the general public of the City of Key West, Florida, said emergency arising from the fact that Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and causes symptoms similar to those of influenza and, in some cases, cause death, and the difficulty the City of Key West has had so far in enforcing its face covering and social distancing directives and that the City Commission is not scheduled to meet for a regular meeting until March 2, 2021, and the regular meeting thereafter will not occur until March 16, 2021, at which point Emergency Ordinance 21-01 will have expired and the immediate need to minimize the risk of a dramatic increase in infections that might overwhelm the available public health resources and require closure of amenities and businesses.

**Section 8: Opt-Out Notification.** The City Commission of Key West hereby notifies Monroe County that the City of Key West has opted-out of the Face Coverings in Certain Circumstances Ordinance

also known as Monroe County Ordinance No. 032-2020. The City Clerk shall send a true and correct copy of the Ordinance to the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners.

**Section 9: Severability.** If any section, provision, clause, phrase, or application of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed severable therefrom and shall be construed as reasonable and necessary to achieve the lawful purposes of this Ordinance.

**Section 10: Conflict.** All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances of said City in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby superseded to the extent of such conflict.

**Section 11: Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be adopted and go into effect on Saturday, March 6, 2021.

**Section 12: Sunset Date.** Unless repealed or re-enacted pursuant to Ordinance 7.02, City of Key West, this emergency ordinance shall automatically stand repealed as of the sixty-first (61st) day following the date on which it was adopted.

**Section 13: Codification.** Due to the temporary nature of this ordinance, the City of Key West directs the Clerk to send the ordinance to the Municipal Code for publication on its website but with instructions to not codify the ordinance within the Code of the City of Key West.

PASSED as an amended emergency ordinance at a special meeting  
this 2nd day of March, 2021.


Authenticated by the presiding officer and Clerk of the  
Commission on 3rd day of March, 2021.

Filed with the Clerk March 3, 2021.

Mayor Teri Johnston	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Sam Kaufman	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Gregory Davila	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Clayton Lopez	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	<u>No</u>
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	<u>Yes</u>

  
TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK