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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THE IMPORTANCE OF WISCONSIN'S FACE COVERING ORDER

August 3, 2020

On Thursday, July 30, 2020, Governor Tony Evers declared a Public Health Emergency and issued an Emergency Order requiring individuals to wear face coverings when indoors and not in a private residence. Some exceptions are clarified further in the order. The order is effective at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, August 1, 2020 and will expire on September 28, 2020 or by a subsequent superseding order.

- Executive Order #82 declaring the public health emergency can be seen [here](#).
- Executive Order #1 requiring face coverings statewide can be seen [here](#).

“While our local health departments have been doing a heck of a job responding to this pandemic in our communities, the fact of the matter is, this virus doesn't care about any town, city, or county boundary, and we need a statewide approach to get Wisconsin back on track,” said Gov. Evers. “While I know emotions are high when it comes to wearing face coverings in public, my job as governor is to put people first and to do what's best for the people of our state, so that's what I am going to do.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states “COVID-19 [spreads](#) mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice (e.g., while shouting, chanting, or singing). These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. [Recent studies](#) show that a significant portion of individuals with COVID-19 lack symptoms (are “asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (are “pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. To reduce the spread of COVID-19, CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings when around people outside of their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.”

Wearing a face covering in public has increasing evidence of effectiveness of preventing the spread of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2). Dean Blumberg, Chief of pediatric infection diseases at UC Davis Children's Hospital indicated that a lot has been learned due to more research and additional scientific evidence. [“What we know now is that masks work and are very important.”](#) Additionally, in Missouri, two hair stylists were found to have worked while infectious and symptomatic with COVID-19 at a salon that had a universal face covering policy. The hairstylists had spent more than 15 minutes with 139 different clients. [In this report](#), it is stated, “Among 139 clients exposed to two symptomatic hair stylists with confirmed COVID-19 while both the stylists and the clients wore face masks, no symptomatic secondary cases were reported; among 67 clients tested for SARS-CoV-2, all test results were negative. Adherence to the community's and company's face-covering policy likely mitigated spread of SARS-CoV-2.”

The bottom line is that wearing a face covering while in public is an easy and effective way to prevent people infectious with COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.

Community members in need of a face covering can utilize the following resources:

- [The CDC provides sew and no-sew instructions](#) for making your own face covering.
- You can purchase a face covering from many stores, including online stores. There are also several community groups and individuals who are making face coverings that are sold locally.
- Call United Way at 2-1-1 to find other ways to receive a face covering.

**While wearing a face covering is important to slow the spread of COVID-19, please remember that it is not community members' jobs or place to judge or report people who are not wearing a face covering as some people cannot wear a covering safely. Additionally, community members must also respect those who do follow the order by wearing a face covering. The bottom line is to be kind and seek understanding before harassing or reporting someone.**

References (in order of placement in the release):

- Executive Order #82:  
<https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpb9saW5rX2lkjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpbGljaylslmJ1bGxldGluX2lkjoiMjAyMDA3MzAuMjUwODMyOTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2NvbnRlbnQuZ292ZGVsaXZlcnkuY29tL2F0dGFjaG1lbnRzL1dJR09WZlZlMjAvMDcvMzAvZmlsZV9hdHRhY2htZW50cy8xNTA3NDg4L0VPMDgyLVBIRUNPVklEU2Vjb25kU3Bpa2UIMjAlMjgwMDMlMjkucGRmIn0.IE588JQC6EpK7584dNk8lvF4GzTfsWLIvLIX6N5eqBU/s/1158160788/br/81702748070-l>
- Emergency Order #1:  
[https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpb9saW5rX2lkjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpbGljaylslmJ1bGxldGluX2lkjoiMjAyMDA3MzAuMjUwODMyOTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2NvbnRlbnQuZ292ZGVsaXZlcnkuY29tL2F0dGFjaG1lbnRzL1dJR09WZlZlMjAvMDcvMzAvZmlsZV9hdHRhY2htZW50cy8xNTA3MzML0VNTzAxLUZhY2VDb3ZlcmVudGRmIn0.hBa7jzo9HxGKwyuMEu-hE0Y\\_ww4871\\_kthyPm6e4KNo/s/1158160788/br/81702748070-l](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpb9saW5rX2lkjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpbGljaylslmJ1bGxldGluX2lkjoiMjAyMDA3MzAuMjUwODMyOTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2NvbnRlbnQuZ292ZGVsaXZlcnkuY29tL2F0dGFjaG1lbnRzL1dJR09WZlZlMjAvMDcvMzAvZmlsZV9hdHRhY2htZW50cy8xNTA3MzML0VNTzAxLUZhY2VDb3ZlcmVudGRmIn0.hBa7jzo9HxGKwyuMEu-hE0Y_ww4871_kthyPm6e4KNo/s/1158160788/br/81702748070-l)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, How COVID-19 Spreads:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Research Studies Regarding Asymptomatic Spread of COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html#recent-studies>
- UC Davis Children's Hospital Quote, Importance of Masks:  
<https://www.ucdavis.edu/coronavirus/news/your-mask-cuts-own-risk-65-percent/>
- Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), Absence of Apparent Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from Two Stylists After Exposure at a Hair Salon with a Universal Face Covering Policy — Springfield, Missouri, May 2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6928e2.htm>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Sew and No-Sew Face Coverings:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html>

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