

**Disaster Emergency Declaration
2021-01**

ORIGINAL

Delaware County, Indiana

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, on March 13, 2020, has declared a nationwide emergency concerning the spread of COVID-19 viral infections, and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Indiana, on March 16, 2020, has made an emergency declaration in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease epidemic wherein he has extended the public health emergency for a tenth time up to and including January 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the County Health Officer has determined that certain measures should be put into place to lessen the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus including the closing of some local businesses; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to I. C. 10-14-3-29(a) the Board of Commissioners of Delaware County, IN hereby makes a local disaster emergency declaration; and

WHEREAS, the trend in Delaware County for the past month has shown a significant increase in COVID-19 cases and the positivity rate for the last 7 days is 7.8% ending on December 2, 2020 for the County; and

WHEREAS, there have been a total of 7,470 cases in Delaware County to date with an increase of 738 cases and 122 deaths since the start of the pandemic and more than an average of 73.8 cases per day; a positivity rate of 10.7% currently and IU Ball Memorial Hospital has a total of 65 inpatient COVID-19 patients; and

WHEREAS, younger members of the populace have been testing positive in greater numbers as well as greater illness rates among younger and younger people; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Delaware County, Indiana have determined that in response to the emergency believes that an Emergency Declaration is appropriate for the citizens of Delaware County and that the Emergency Declaration should be extended.

NOW THEREFORE WE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

1. A local public health disaster continues to exist in the County and that we hereby invoke and declare those portions of the Indiana Code which are applicable to the conditions and have caused the issuance of this

proclamation, to be in full force and effect in the entire County, including incorporated areas for the exercise of all necessary emergency authority for protection of the lives and property of the people of this County and the restoration of local government with a minimum of interruption. **This Emergency Order is effective immediately and shall be in place until the end of business January 19, 2021.**

2. Governor Eric Holcomb's Executive Orders 20-48; 20-49, 20-50, 20-52 and 20-53 are incorporated in their entirety in this Emergency Declaration.
3. All employees in any county facility shall wear a face covering their nose and mouth at all times except while working in their own workspace, provided that the workspace is spaced more than 6' from other work spaces. Additionally, employees shall not be required to wear facial coverings when working outside (if they are working in an environment that allows for social distancing), in a vehicle by themselves or working remotely. Employees of the County shall also wear facial coverings when moving about the hallways, common areas, restrooms or other areas of the County facilities when not at their work space.
4. Department heads and Elected officials shall reduce the number of employees and personnel permitted to congregate in break rooms or common areas and to ensure social distancing occurs at all times.
5. All members of the public that conduct business in any county building or facility shall maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet between individuals at all times and shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside any public building or other indoor space open to the public. This does NOT apply to private offices, private workplaces or meetings where social distancing can be achieved and maintained between people not in the

same household. Member of the public are required to wear a face covering which may consist of a face mask or shield or other covering which covers the person's mouth and nose during their business in the County Building unless the member of public prohibits a face covering because of an underlying health condition prohibits wearing a face covering.

6. In instances where an individual must visit a retail business, the business shall follow the proper social distancing requirements in Executive Order 20-48 and the guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
7. Those residents that meet the below stated criteria are not required to wear a facial covering:
 - a. Under 2 years of age;
 - b. Over age 2 years and under age 8 years;
 - c. Any person with a medical condition, mental health condition or disability which prevents face coverings.
 - d. Any other exemption set forth in Executive Order 20-48, section 3(f)(i-xv).
8. Those members of the public that are at least 65 and older and those with known high-risk health conditions should adhere to social distancing requirements and be cautious at work and in their communities and should wear facial coverings.
9. Citizens that have symptoms, may have been exposed, been in close contact (as defined by the CDC), have high-risk health conditions as well as others that desire peace of mind are encouraged to be tested for COVID-19 at the local facilities.
10. Pursuant to Executive Order 20-48; Delaware County currently is placed in the "Orange" zone because community spread is approaching high levels

and the County has a point score of 2.5 according to the Indiana Department of Health.

11. Delaware County has the ability to increase the threat level to a “Red” zone where the community spread is high and the County could achieve a point score of 3.0 or higher by the Indiana Department of Health.
12. As a result of the County achieving the “Orange Zone” level from the State Health Department social gatherings and events of greater than 50 people are prohibited from occurring.
13. In the event that the County achieves a “Red Zone” level from the State Health Department, then social gatherings and events of greater than 25 people are prohibited from occurring.
14. All businesses are required to place clearly visible signage at their public and employee entrances notifying that face coverages are required for all individuals entering the business.
15. Businesses should only admit those customers, clients, vendors and visitors that wear a face covering.
16. Religious services shall be governed by Executive Order 2020-48, section 7(a).
17. This Emergency Declaration shall supersede and replace all prior Emergency Declarations made the by Board of Commissioners prior to this Emergency Order.
18. The Commissioners determine that all government operations are essential and the government operations from March 23, 2020 to the present and all essential governmental functions are operating and available to the public through remote or electronic access, as needed.

19. Violations of this order will be turned over to ISDH, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission or the local board of health as the facts may impose the sanctions set forth in Executive Order 20-48(10) (b).

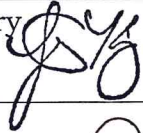
20. This Emergency Order shall remain valid until the end of business on January 19, 2021 unless superseded.

In witness, whereof, we have hereunto set our hand this 4th day of January, 2021.

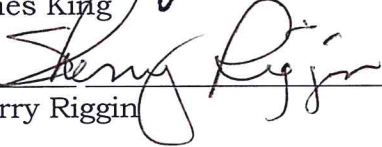
Delaware County Board of Commissioners



Shannon Henry



James King



Sherry Riffin

Attest:

Steven G. Craycraft, County Auditor

