BEXLEY EXECUTIVE ORDER REQUIRING CUSTOMERS TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS/MASKS

As coronavirus cases continue rising in Bexley, Franklin County, and Ohio, Bexley’s COVID-19 Task Force made the recommendation to require, as opposed to recommend, face coverings in public, indoor spaces. Based on this recommendation and after consultation with City Council, the Mayor has updated Bexley’s Emergency Orders to require face coverings be worn inside all Bexley retail establishments, bars, restaurants, theaters, office spaces, and personal care and grooming businesses, with exceptions. The Order goes into effect on Friday, July 3, 2020.

WHEN AND WHERE ARE FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED?

- Retail establishments
- Restaurants and bars, except when seated for service
- Theaters, except when seated and consuming concessions
- Office spaces open to the public (i.e. lobbies and reception areas)
- Personal care and grooming businesses, except when removal is required for service

EXCEPTIONS TO THE FACE COVERING REQUIREMENT

The Executive Order provides for several lawful exceptions to the face covering requirement in instances where the individual:

- Should not wear a Face Covering due to any medical or behavioral condition or disability (including, but not limited to, any person who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious or incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to put on or remove the face covering without assistance)
- Is actively eating or drinking
- Is strenuously exercising
- Is seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired in a way that requires the mouth to be visible
- Is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience
- Is temporarily removing his or her Face Covering to secure government or medical services or for identification purposes
- Is a child whose parent, guardian, or responsible person has been unable to place the Face Covering safely on the child’s face
- Is a child under five (5) years of age
- For whom face coverings are prohibited by law or regulation or are inconsistent with industry standards while the customer is on duty

ENFORCEMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT

Due to the exceptions to the requirement, and the individual responsibility of each citizen to comply with the order, businesses are not required to enforce the requirement. However, businesses do have the right to refuse service to customers not wearing a mask, provided that any mask requirements and service stipulations are applied universally. Individuals who witness a violation of the requirement, in which they have knowledge that a lawful exception does not apply, are able to report violations to the Code Enforcement office at (614) 559-4240. Violations of this order are not to be reported to the police department, as the police department is not charged with initial enforcement of violations.

For the full text of the order, and to view all updates related to COVID-19 in Bexley, please visit bexley.org/coronavirus.