

Presented by: COW  
Presented: 4/26/2021  
Drafted by: R. Palmer III

## ORDINANCE OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2021-11

### **An Emergency Ordinance Reestablishing the City and Borough of Juneau COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies and Providing for a Penalty.**

WHEREAS, CBJ Charter 5.4(a) provides the Assembly may adopt an emergency ordinance to meet a public emergency by an affirmative vote of at least six assembly members; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus ("virus"), a new strain of the coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans and is easily transmittable person to person; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization ("WHO") declared the virus a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the State of Alaska declared a public health emergency in response to the anticipated outbreak of the virus in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency in response to the virus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Assembly declared a local emergency in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the City and Borough of Juneau ("CBJ") received its first positive case of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Juneau International Airport and the Juneau ferry terminal are the primary point-of-entries for persons traveling into Juneau; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2021, the State of Alaska identified that non-residents traveling into the State no longer had to pay the \$250 for a COVID-19 test upon arrival and fully vaccinated people did not have to follow strict social distancing requirements while awaiting test results; and

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2 WHEREAS, while more community members are getting vaccinated for COVID, the  
3 community has not reached herd immunity, children are not eligible for vaccines, a variant of  
4 concern (B.1.1.7) has recently been detected in Juneau, and COVID is interrupting in-person  
learning; and

5 WHEREAS, Alaska continues to experience a substantial increase in COVID-19 cases, like  
6 the rest of the United States, with multiple regions in Alaska at a high alert level; and

7 WHEREAS, as of April 21, 2021, there have been more than 1389 confirmed cases in the  
8 City and Borough of Juneau, of which a substantial percentage are travel related or  
attributable to community spread; and

9 WHEREAS, the updated COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies will help provide better  
10 structure and certainty as the community balances the needs to mitigate harm from COVID-19  
and keep the economy open.

11 THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU,  
12 ALASKA:

13 **Section 1. Classification.** This ordinance is a noncode ordinance.

14 **Section 2. COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies.**

15 (a) **Adoption.** The City and Borough of Juneau COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies identified in  
16 Exhibit A are adopted.

17 (b) **Determination of Incident Risk Level.** The Manager is authorized to determine which  
18 Incident Risk Level best fits the City and Borough of Juneau based on a comprehensive range of  
public health factors related to COVID-19.

19 (c) **Public Notice.** The Manager shall conspicuously identify the Incident Risk Level on the  
20 City and Borough of Juneau's webpage and widely distribute public notice when the level  
changes.

21 (d) **Exemptions.**

22 (1) **Exemption Request.** An entity or person may request an exemption from the COVID-  
23 19 Mitigation Strategies by submitting a site specific COVID-19 Mitigation Plan to the  
24 CBJ Emergency Operations Center by emailing [covidquestions@juneau.org](mailto:covidquestions@juneau.org). The  
25 Emergency Operations Center may issue an exemption if the COVID-19 Mitigation  
Plan has sufficient measures and policies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in light  
of the Incident Risk Level.

(2) **Public Records.** All exemption requests, communication, and responses are  
presumptively public records. If an entity or person requests that the City and Borough  
of Juneau withhold any information contained in your COVID-19 Mitigation Plan from

public release because the information is protected under AS 40.25.120(a), you must submit the following information with the request:

- (A) Identify each set of discrete information that the entity or person asserts is confidential;
- (B) Identify each specific legal authority that the entity or person asserts applies to each such set of information; and
- (C) For each such set of information, explain why the entity or person asserts the information is confidential based on each legal authority the entity or person asserts applies to that information.

Should the City and Borough of Juneau receive a request for records under the Public Records Act applicable to any item marked confidential, the City and Borough of Juneau should notify the person or entity asserting confidentiality as soon as practicable prior to making any disclosure. The person or entity asserting confidentiality acknowledges it has five (5) calendar days after receipt of notice to notify the City and Borough of Juneau of its objection to any disclosure, and to file any action with any competent court to protect its interests. Should the person or entity asserting confidentiality fail to notify the City and Borough of Juneau of its objection or fail to file suit within five (5) calendar days, the CBJ may disclose the records.

(e) **Violation.** A person who violates a mitigation strategy in Exhibit A shall be subject to a civil fine not to exceed \$25.00 per violation, which shall be considered incorporated into CBJC 03.30.070(a); payment of the civil fine shall be accepted in satisfaction of the violation; and the violation shall be subject to CBJC 03.30.070(b)-(c) and CBJC 03.30.075-03.30.085. In addition to a civil fine, the City and Borough of Juneau may use all available civil enforcement options (i.e. injunction, revocation of certificate of occupancy, civil lawsuit, etc.) to assure compliance with this ordinance.

(f) **Amendments.** The Manager shall advise the Assembly if new and relevant information about COVID-19 is discovered that warrant revisions to the COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies in Exhibit A.

(g) **Mask or Face Covering Mandate.**

(1) **Requirement.** All individuals must wear a mask or a face covering over their nose and mouth (i) as provided for in Exhibit A; (ii) when using public transportation, like Capital Transit; and (iii) when entering an area that is posted requiring use of a mask or face covering. This ordinance is subject to the conditions and exceptions stated below.

(2) **Face Shield.** A face shield is generally not permitted in lieu of a mask or face covering because face shields are less effective in stopping the spread of COVID-19. However, a face shield may be permitted in lieu of a mask or face covering for the following

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2 individuals, who must wear a face shield whenever a mask or face covering would be  
3 required unless it is impossible to do so:

- 4 (A) Any individual who cannot tolerate a mask due to a physical or mental  
5 disability;
- 6 (B) Individuals who are communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of  
7 hearing; or
- 8 (C) Individuals performing an activity that cannot be conducted or safely conducted  
9 while wearing a mask (for example a driver experiencing foggy glasses, a dental  
10 patient receiving care, or an equipment operator where there is a risk of  
11 dangerous entanglement).

12 (3) **Employment.** Employers are responsible to make sure employees who are present in  
13 the workplace have access to and wear masks or face coverings as required by this  
14 ordinance.

15 (4) **Exceptions.** This ordinance does not apply to the following categories of people or  
16 activities:

- 17 (A) Any child under the age of 2 years. These very young children should not wear  
18 a face covering because of the risk of suffocation. Additionally, masks are  
19 recommended, but not required for children ages 2-5. Daycare settings that  
20 serve preschool children are encouraged but not required to enforce mask usage  
21 for children age 2 and older.
- 22 (B) Individuals who are incarcerated, in police custody, or inside a courtroom; these  
23 individuals should follow guidance particular to their location or institution.
- 24 (C) Musicians, presenters, ministers, and others communicating to an audience or  
25 being recorded, for the duration of their presentation/practice/performance  
where mask usage impairs communication, and so long as safe physical  
distancing is maintained.
- (D) Individuals removing their mask or face covering to eat, drink, or briefly  
scratch an itch.
- (E) Employees within their own fully enclosed office or workspace, and employees  
within an unenclosed workspace if they are totally alone.
- (F) Individuals doing high intensity exercise outdoors.

(5) **Denial of Service.** A person violating this ordinance is prohibited from entering,  
occupying, or remaining in the setting in which a mask or face covering is required.  
Provided, however, that this ordinance shall be applied in a manner consistent with the

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and any other applicable provision of law. Businesses and the City Manager, for City and Borough of Juneau facilities, may choose to allow individuals who request an accommodation under the ADA to wear a face shield, or may consider accommodating these individuals through alternative means of providing goods or services, such as curbside, delivery, or telephonic service.

- (6) **Proof of Medical Reason or Disability.** If a person declines to wear a mask or face covering because of a medical condition or disability as described above, this ordinance does not require them to produce medical documentation verifying the stated condition or disability.

(7) **Additional City and Borough of Juneau Facility Provision.**

(A) **Notice.** The City Manager is required to identify and conspicuously post notices for those City and Borough of Juneau public facilities or areas of public facilities in which people are required to wear a mask or face covering. The Manager should post face covering notices in public facilities and areas of public facilities in which maintaining six feet separation between people is difficult or where there are insufficient physical barriers to keep people six feet apart.

(B) **Provision of Face Covering.** For people who cannot afford or locate a face covering, the Manager shall make a face covering available on every Capital Transit bus and at any facility owned by the City and Borough of Juneau that requires a mask or face covering.

(8) **Definitions.**

(A) “Mask” means a medical grade mask (i.e. N95).

(B) “Face covering” means a cloth, polypropylene, paper, or other face covering that covers the nose and the mouth and that rests snugly above the nose, below the mouth, and on the sides of the face. The following are not face coverings because they allow droplets to be released: a covering with a valve designed to facilitate easy exhalation; mesh masks; lace masks; other coverings with openings, holes, or visible gaps in the design or material.

(C) “Face shield” means a clear plastic shield that covers the forehead, extends below the chin, and wraps around the sides of the face.

**Section 3. Repeal of Emergency Ordinance 2020-61.** Given the updated COVID-19 Mitigation Measures in Exhibit A as provided for in this ordinance and the conflicts with the mask mandate in Emergency Ordinance 2020-61, Emergency Ordinance 2020-61 is repealed. The mask mandate continues as provided for in this ordinance.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall be effective immediately after its adoption. This ordinance expires at 12:01 a.m. on October 22, 2021, unless terminated earlier by the Assembly by motion.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:

Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk