

RESOLUTION 2020-25

WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS IN THE VILLAGE OF ALLOUEZ

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus pandemic continues to endanger public health with confirmed Covid-19 cases across Wisconsin and in Brown County, with significant risk for people in our community; and

WHEREAS, leaders of the five local hospitals and major clinics including the chief executive officers of Aurora BayCare Medical Center, BayCare Clinic, Bellin Health, HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and Prevea Health have urged local governments to address the issue of communitywide face-covering rules in order to help slow the spread of the virus and avoid exceeding local healthcare capacity; and

WHEREAS, a number of constituents have contacted their Allouez village representatives to make known their support for their positions, both in favor of and against mask requirements in Allouez; and

WHEREAS, both Village of Allouez legal counsel and officials with the Wisconsin League of Municipalities have expressed the opinion that those communities that do not operate their own public health departments – most small- and mid-size cities and villages across the state including Allouez – are governed by any county or state directives with regard to comprehensive and enforceable health orders; and

WHEREAS, Gov. Tony Evers mandated the use of masks in indoor public spaces in Wisconsin as of Aug. 1 and through Sept. 29;

WHEREAS, we believe that Allouez businesses and residents are to be commended for their ongoing, voluntary adherence to best practices in social distancing, washing of hands, cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces, and mask use where appropriate, even before the Governor's mandate; and that these actions, according to the Brown County Health Department, are effective tools in preventing the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, we believe that heightened vigilance is both possible and desirable in Allouez given the continuing prevalence of Covid-19 infections; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the undersigned members of the Allouez Village Board, strongly recommend the voluntary washing of hands, cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces and wearing face coverings where appropriate by residents of, visitors to, and businesses in the Village of Allouez, until such time that the Brown County Health Department determines from Covid-19 case data that the pandemic has abated or until the Brown County Health Department determines these measures are not effective in the abatement of COVID-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we continue to encourage a cohesive and comprehensive approach by the federal government, state, and county to avoid confusion from one community to another.

DATED this 1st day of September, 2020

James F. Rafter, Village President

Debra M. Baenen, Clerk/Treasurer