



Graham County Board of Supervisors

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For Immediate Release

In a meeting at on November 25th the Graham County Board of Supervisors adopted a Mask Wearing Regulation to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Graham County is experiencing a large influx of positive cases in the community and the Graham County Health Department and Mount Graham Regional Medical Center have made requests for mask wearing regulations to slow the number of COVID-19 patients entering the hospital. Health Department and hospital officials have indicated that the hospital is reaching capacity and further mitigation measures need to be put into place to not overwhelm the capacity of our local healthcare system.

Effective as of November 26, 2020 the Mask Wearing Regulation is applicable to all of Graham County and includes the requirement for the wearing of masks inside the enclosed area of any place of public accommodation. Exclusions to the regulation includes:

- Persons in their personal residence.
- For persons who fall into the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance for those who should not wear Face Coverings due to a medical or mental health condition or developmental disability;
- For children under 2 years old;
- For restaurant patrons while they are eating or drinking;
- For persons exercising in communal outdoor spaces, or persons walking or exercising with other persons from the same household in communal outdoor spaces, as long as Physical Distancing is maintained. For persons congregating in communal outdoor spaces with other persons not in their same household, Face Coverings are required when Physical Distancing is not maintained;
- In settings where it is not practical or feasible to wear a Face Covering, including when obtaining or rendering goods or services, such as dental services, medical treatments,

participating in sporting competitions or other like activities;

- For persons in a personal vehicle, personal office, or similarly private space where other persons outside of the person's household are not present;
- For public safety employees and/or emergency responders and/or field employees engaged in essential functions, when wearing a Face Covering would interfere with or severely limit their ability to carry out their essential duties or functions; and
- For persons complying with the directions of public safety employees and/or emergency responders.

The goal of enforcement is to first educate the public on the dangers of the community spread and promote best health practices including wearing a mask. The first offense results in a warning and further offenses may result in a civil penalty of not more than \$50.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Dustin Welker at 928-428-3250.