

# CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

## EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 21-25

### **AN ORDINANCE BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL EXTENDING AND AMENDING EMERGENCY ORDINANCES 21-17, 21-10, 21-03, 20-38, 20-34, AND 20-27 ESTABLISHING A MANDATE WITHIN THE CITY OF BETHEL THAT MASKS OR SIMILAR FACE-COVERINGS BE WORN UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS**

**WHEREAS,** on May 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its public health recommendations for fully-vaccinated people, as the vaccines authorized in the United States are proving to be highly effective in protecting vaccinated people against symptomatic and severe COVID-19;

**WHEREAS,** the updated guidance states:

fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance;

**WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska has no mandates in place related to the public's use of masks or face coverings;

**WHEREAS,** there are still situations where it is in the best interest of our organization's operations to maintain mask wearing in certain situations to help protect those individuals that may not be able to get vaccinated;

**WHEREAS,** the Council finds that it is in the best interest of the public peace, health, welfare and safety, and to preserve the health, safety, and lives of the citizens of the community and region, to continue a mandate that masks and face-coverings be worn under certain conditions.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA:**

**SECTION 1.** This is a non-codified Ordinance of general and permanent nature and shall become part of the Bethel Municipal Code.

**SECTION 2. Mandate for non-vaccinated people:**

To reduce the possibility of community spread of COVID-19, it is the mandate of the City of Bethel that face coverings be worn by non-vaccinated people:

- Inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor public space;

- Obtaining services from a healthcare facility;
- Waiting for or riding on public transportation or while in a taxi or bus;
- Engaged in work, whether at the workplace or performing work off-site, when:
  - Interacting in-person with any member of the public;
  - Working in any space visited by members of the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time;
- Working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
- Working in or walking through public common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities;
- In any room or enclosed area where other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present when unable to physically distance;
- Driving or operating any public transportation or taxi service or ride-sharing vehicle; and
- While outdoors in public spaces when maintaining a physical distance of six feet from persons who are not members of the same household or residence is not feasible.

### **Section 3. Exemptions for non-vaccinated people:**

The following non-vaccinated individuals are exempt from wearing a face covering:

- Persons younger than two years old;
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines;
- Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service;
- Persons who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking, provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or residence;
- Persons who are engaged in outdoor work or recreation such as swimming, walking, hiking, bicycling, or running, when alone or with household members, and when they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others;
- Persons who are incarcerated. Jails and community residential centers, as part of their mitigation plans, will have specific guidance on the wearing of face coverings or masks for both inmates and staff;

### **SECTION 4. Mandate for fully vaccinated people:**

To reduce the possibility of community spread of COVID-19, it is the mandate of the City of

Introduced by: Mayor DeWitt  
Public Hearing and Adoption Date: May 25, 2021  
Action: Passed  
Vote: 5-0

Bethel that face coverings be worn by fully vaccinated people:

- Waiting for or riding on public transportation or while in a taxi or bus;
- When obtaining services from a healthcare facility;
- Municipal employees or contractors engaged in work with members of the public; and
- Municipal employees or officials attending or participating in person at city meetings or functions.

For purposes of this section, a person is considered, "fully-vaccinated" two weeks after the second dose of the vaccine in a two-shot series vaccine, or two weeks after the single dose in a one-shot vaccine.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** that the Bethel City Council establishes a community mandate that masks or similar face-coverings shall be worn by persons consistent with this ordinance.

**Section 5. Effective and Expiration Date:** This ordinance is effective immediately upon adoption by the City Council and shall remain in effect for a period of sixty (60) days.

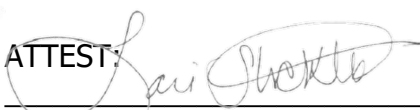
**BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA THIS 25 DAY OF MAY 2021 BY A VOTE OF 5 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.**



Michelle DeWitt (May 26, 2021 10:58 AM PDT)

Michelle DeWitt, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Lori Strickler, City Clerk


# Ordinance 21-25 Extending City of Bethel Community Mask Mandate COVID-19 Pandemic May 25 Final


Final Audit Report


2021-05-26


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