

ELK COUNTY FACE COVERING PROTOCOL

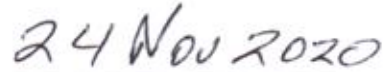
1. Protocol:

- a. Elk County does not mandate the use of masks/facial coverings, but recognizes the significance of utilizing them in order to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 in the population. Therefore, masks are not mandated, but are strongly recommended in Elk County whenever in any public space indoors, or outside when at least 6 feet social distancing cannot be maintained.
- b. While we recognize the significance of face coverings in mitigating the transmission of Covid-19, we find a mandate inherently unenforceable at the County level.
- c. Social distancing guidelines will continue to be strongly encouraged, as well as practicing good personal hygiene and staying home if ill.
- d. Whenever feasibly possible unnecessary gatherings are discouraged.
- e. Businesses, schools, and other entities, public or private, may choose to require patrons, customers, employees, or other people to wear face coverings when in attendance to an event, inside a business, while working, or when engaged in any activity within that entity.
- f. For the purpose of this document, a "face covering" means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is simply wrapped around the lower face. A face covering can be made of a variety of synthetic and natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen. Ideally, a face covering has two or more layers. A face covering may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs or bandanas.

This document shall become effective as of **12:01 a.m.** on **Wednesday November 25, 2020**, and remain in force until rescinded. This order may be expanded and/or modified by the Elk County Board of Health as circumstances dictate in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Elk County.



Elk County Board of Health



Date



Kandy Dowell RN/ADM



Date

Elk County Public Health Officer