

City of Sumter

South Carolina



Proclamation

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF SUMTER)
)
CITY OF SUMTER)

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a disease resulting from the “novel coronavirus” (SARS-CoV-2), was declared by the World Health Organization to be a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a State of Emergency in the entire country and its territories and the Governor of South Carolina declared a State of Emergency in our State in an effort to control the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, 122,000 have died from COVID-19 in the United States of America since early March 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation projects that 201,129 will die from the virus in our country through October 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the same Institute projects that 2,853 will die in South Carolina from the virus through October 1, 2020, a projection confirmed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control on its website; and

WHEREAS, Sumter County has had 825 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 caseload at Prisma Tuomey Healthcare is the highest it has been at any time since the pandemic began, with twenty-three patients including eight patients in the COVID-19 intensive care unit; and

WHEREAS, over fifty percent (50%) of confirmed cases (430) in Sumter have been diagnosed between June 1 and June 21, 2020, as opposed to 395 confirmed cases from March 16 to May 30, 2020 (seventy-seven (77) days); and

WHEREAS, twenty-one residents of Sumter County have died from COVID-19 through June 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, physical/social distancing, frequent handwashing, and wearing face masks have proven to be effective ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19, in that during a time when South Carolina was under an Executive Order of the Governor of South Carolina to leave home only for essential work and necessary travel, projected cases and deaths were significantly lower than at present; and

WHEREAS, healthcare professionals and epidemiologists believe that a significant number of persons have COVID-19 with no or slight symptoms and do not seek testing or limit their contact with others; and

WHEREAS, shutting down our state could never be a long-term solution for preventing the spread of coronavirus, as citizens must work to provide for themselves and their families and to maintain the strength and viability of our state and country; and

WHEREAS, citizens need to be even more vigilant since our economy was “reopened” about practicing physical/social distancing to the greatest extent possible and washing their hands frequently; and

WHEREAS, suitable masks are available to the public by purchase or can be easily made; and


WHEREAS, cloth face masks can reduce the threat that the mask wearer will contract COVID-19, they are even more effective in preventing the spread of coronavirus to another person, such that wearing a mask shows concern for fellow citizens while also protecting the wearer; and

WHEREAS, those who do not wear masks when away from their homes and unable to practice effective social distancing significantly increase the risk that others will contract COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sumter has a responsibility under South Carolina law to act to protect the safety, health and welfare of the citizens of Sumter

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE UNDERSIGNED AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SUMTER, HEREBY RESOLVES AND PROCLAIMS THAT:

1. The alarming rise in diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the City and County of Sumter and the significant increase in the percentage of positive cases resulting from testing—in excess of fifteen percent (15%) on some days-- establishes that there is a public health emergency in the City; and
2. As the simple act of wearing a cloth face mask significantly reduces the chance of infecting another person and likewise reduces the chances of the wearer being infected, all citizens of the City of Sumter are implored and strongly urged to wear a cloth face mask or other satisfactory face cover when away from her or his home and unable to practice safe physical/social distancing; and
3. Employers are implored and strongly urged to require all employees to wear a mask, especially who come directly into contact with members of the public and who are not separated from the public by a barrier that will prevent infection of another; and
4. Employers and owners of retail, professional, commercial and other establishments are implored and strongly urged to require customers, clients, and patrons to wear face masks on their premises; and
5. Young Sumterites are implored and urged to wear masks, practice social distancing, and wash their hands; COVID-19 is predominately killing the elderly, but the incidence of infection in the young is increasing; the failure of young people to act safely during this pandemic increases the risk of infection and death of their parents, grandparents and other family members and friends; and
6. Citizens are implored and strongly urged to continue to practice safe social distancing and handwashing as additional methods for slowing the spread of coronavirus; and
7. Although this Proclamation does not have the force of law, the undersigned issues this proclamation because he has confidence in the goodness, wisdom and common sense of the citizens of the City of Sumter to take these very minimal steps voluntarily so that infections and deaths related to COVID-19 will be minimal.


Joseph T. McElveen, Jr., Mayor

Date: June 24, 2020

ATTEST:


Linda D. Hammett, City Clerk