

### RESOLUTION NO. 2020-4647

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON, ENCOURAGING THE RESIDENTS OF PIERCE COUNTY TO USE FACE COVERINGS OR MASKS WHEN THEY ARE IN PUBLIC SPACES**

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020 the Governor of the state of Washington issued Proclamation 20-05 declaring a public health state of emergency for all counties in Washington State due to the novel coronavirus COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020 the Governor issued Proclamation 20-25 which extended the state of emergency, established the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order, and prohibited all people from leaving their homes except for those engaged in or obtaining essential services; and

WHEREAS, the Governor subsequently provided a Safe Start four phase recovery plan to restart business and modify physical distancing requirements when disease activity is adequately suppressed and readiness in key areas is achieved; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2020, the Secretary of Health approved Pierce County's application to move to Phase 2 of the state's Safe Start recovery plan, which allows for modified restrictions on businesses and other areas of public life; and

WHEREAS, effective June 8, 2020, the Governor required all employees to wear face coverings at work if they are not working alone or can't maintain physical distance; and

WHEREAS, we do not want to act in ways that could risk our hard fought progress and even with the relaxed restrictions, it's more important than ever to engage in activities to prevent the spread of disease, such as maintaining physical distance of six feet from others, practicing good hygiene, staying home when sick, and wearing a facing covering; and

WHEREAS, given the widespread community transmission of COVID-19, wearing a face covering over the nose and mouth designed to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets provides an extra layer of protection, especially when one cannot easily keep physical distance from others; and

WHEREAS, wearing a face covering protects the health of others in our community because a significant portion of people who have COVID-19 do not show symptoms and therefore the virus can spread before people realize they are sick;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department recommend that all people wear face coverings when in public; and

WHEREAS, exceptions to this resolution are made for: children aged two years or less; children aged 12 years or less who need adult supervision on safe use of face coverings; individuals with physical disabilities that prevent easy wearing or removal of a face covering; communication with hearing impaired individuals who use facial expression and mouth movement as part of communication; individuals who have been advised by a medical professional that wearing a face covering poses a risk to their health; individuals with breathing problems; and members of marginalized communities who do not feel safe wearing face coverings; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED BY THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH** that the residents of Pierce County are encouraged to wear face coverings or masks when they are in outdoor or indoor public areas, especially when they cannot maintain a physical distance of six feet from others; and further, be it

**RESOLVED** that the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department in its COVID-19 emergency response will plan, secure funding, and implement a public education and social marketing campaign to promote use of face coverings and other measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and further, be it

**RESOLVED** that members of the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health will use their influence and communication channels to encourage all residents of Pierce County to wear face coverings in public, practice good hygiene and sanitation, limit travel, and follow recommendations to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

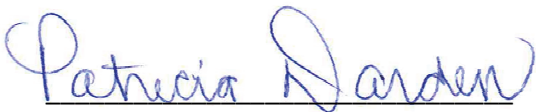
TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



Catherine Ushka  
*Chair, Board of Health*

June 17, 2020  
Date of Adoption

ATTEST:



Patricia Darden  
*Clerk, Board of Health*