

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 1425

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE SIGNAGE AT THE ENTRANCE TO BUILDINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC STATING THAT FACE COVERINGS ARE EXPECTED TO HELP SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID 19 (CORONAVIRUS).

WHEREAS, the City of Vermillion (City) has the authority pursuant to SDCL 9-29-1 and 9-32-1 to enact ordinances for the purpose of promoting the health, safety, morals, and general welfare, of the community; and

WHEREAS, an outbreak of the COVID-19 disease, which is caused by the novel coronavirus, has been confirmed in more than 100 countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease transmitted by person-to-person contact, which especially among older adults and persons with serious underlying health conditions, can result in serious illness requiring hospitalization, admission to an intensive care unit, and death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services have declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, Governor Kristi Noem issued Executive Order 2020-26 which extended the previously declared state of emergency to exist in the State of South Dakota in response to the spread of COVID-19 until December 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed throughout South Dakota including Clay County; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and health experts have advised that the use of face masks or face coverings which cover the nose and mouth will slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, working together now will reduce the widespread proliferation of COVID-19 rather than suffering the unfortunate and devastating medical and economic consequences later; and

WHEREAS, the failure to successfully reduce the spread of COVID-19 will likely result in higher numbers of infected individuals and has the potential to overwhelm the capacity of the City's health care providers; and

WHEREAS, it is important that control measures be taken to reduce or slow down the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and safety of the City's residents, especially for seniors and those with underlying health conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Board of Regents is currently requiring face coverings or face masks for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors in all public indoor spaces on the University of South Dakota campus based on their tiered approach to face coverings to address COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Vermillion Public School District is requiring face coverings or face masks for students, faculty, staff, and visitors in school district facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Vermillion City Council has adopted a face covering policy requiring face coverings or face masks for staff and visitors in city owned buildings; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vermillion joins the University of South Dakota and the Vermillion Public School District, in setting a community expectation that masks will be worn while in indoor public spaces to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that while it may not always be practical or necessary for patrons to wear masks or face coverings in all situations, the City wishes to promote a community-wide culture that emphasizes respect for the health and safety of workers, residents, and visitors by wearing masks or face coverings when in buildings open to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Governing Body of the City of Vermillion that:

1. All restaurants, retail stores, salons, grocery stores, establishments selling alcohol, pharmacies, lodging establishments, exercise facilities, establishments offering goods and services, or soliciting patronage from the general public that are open to the general public will be required to post a sign in a visible location near their entrance(s) no smaller than 8.5" x 11" that indicates that "masks or face coverings are expected pursuant to City Resolution."
2. This ordinance shall remain in effect for a period of sixty (60) days, at which time it shall be automatically repealed unless specifically readopted for an additional period of time by the City Council. Any restriction contained in this ordinance may be modified at any time by a resolution of the City Council.
3. Any violation of this ordinance is subject to a fine set by resolution in compliance with the general penalty provision in Section 10.99 of the City of Vermillion Municipal Code. Each day a violation of this ordinance is allowed to occur is considered a separate offense.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that, pursuant to SDCL 9-19-13, this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the City and shall become effective December 18, 2020.

Dated at Vermillion, South Dakota this 7th day of December, 2020.

THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY
OF VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

BY Kelsey Collin-Wise
Kelsey Collin-Wise, Mayor

ATTEST:

BY Michael D. Carlson
Michael D. Carlson, Finance Officer

First Reading: November 16, 2020
Second Reading: December 7, 2020
Effective Date: December 18, 2020

