

CITY OF STATESBORO

COUNCIL

Phillip A. Boyum, District 1
Paulette Chavers, District 2
Venus Mack, District 3
John Riggs, District 4
Shari Barr, District 5



Jonathan McCollar, Mayor
Charles Penny, City Manager
Leah Harden, City Clerk
Cain Smith, City Attorney

50 EAST MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 348
STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30459-0348

August 20, 2020

Dear Business Owners:

Governor Kemp allowed cities to combat the spread of COVID-19 by imposing local option face covering requirements in his executive order dated August 15, 2020. Statesboro City Council passed a face mask requirement ordinance, on August 18, 2020, which can be found on our website and on City social media accounts. The ordinance requires use of face masks on public property and at entities, which means any private business, establishment, corporation, non-profit corporation, or organization. In accordance with the Governor's orders, businesses are allowed to opt out of enforcement as set out in Section 1 (e):

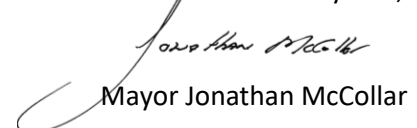
- (1) Every entity subject to this Ordinance which does not consent to enforcement of this Ordinance upon its property shall post a clearly legible sign in one inch Arial font at all public entrances of such entity stating the following: **"This location does not consent to enforcement of any local face covering requirement upon this property."**
- (2) If an entity does not post the signage described in subparagraph (1) of this paragraph it shall be conclusively presumed to have consented to enforcement of this Ordinance on its property and failures by individuals to wear facial coverings or masks as required by this ordinance shall be determined to be violations and enforced as contemplated in paragraph (f).

I am asking you to not opt out of enforcement. The Governor's order allows for this local requirement in counties that meet a minimum threshold requirement of one hundred (100) cases per one hundred thousand (100,000) people over the previous 14 days according to the Georgia Department of Public Health. The current prevalence for Bulloch County is 357.4, which almost certainly lower than the actual rate since college student cases are often counted in their home counties instead of in Bulloch County. With the return of students the City of Statesboro has the potential for a major outbreak, and we absolutely need the cooperation of business owners to help mitigate the spread. We would request businesses that do not opt of enforcement to post signs stating that face coverings are required inside.

Nobody welcomes the situation we are in. We want businesses to prosper and stay open to the public. The absolute best way to assure continued business operations is to do so in a safe way that recognizes the current conditions on the ground. We all need to practice social distancing, wear face coverings when in confined areas or with people from outside our households, practice good hygiene, avoid crowds, and stay home if we are symptomatic. There is a way out of the woods and back to life as we knew it back in February, but it requires everyone to pitch in for the good of our community.

Statesboro, we can do this.

Your Friend at City Hall,



Mayor Jonathan McCollar