



MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

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<http://www.surpriseaz.gov>

For Immediate Release

Surprise requires face coverings in public effective June 20; City Hall will reclose to public

Surprise, AZ (June 19, 2020) In an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19, Surprise Mayor Skip Hall, with support of the Surprise City Council, has issued a Declaration of Emergency Proclamation requiring face coverings within the City of Surprise with limited exceptions.

Effective Saturday, June 20, every person over the age of two is required to wear a face covering while in all public settings within the City of Surprise where it is difficult to maintain a minimum physical distance of six (6) feet from others who do not live in the same residence. This includes, but is not limited to, grocery stores, retail stores, pharmacies, restaurants and bars (when not seated at a table), recreational facilities, libraries, public transportation, public places where lines or crowds form, and special events.

The action follows Governor Doug Ducey's June 17 Executive Order, which gives cities the authority to adopt policies regarding the wearing of face coverings in public for the purpose of mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Face coverings are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Arizona Department of Health Services as a way to protect against the spread of coronavirus. For information on proper wearing and washing of face coverings, visit the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html

The city's proclamation makes exemptions for individuals who are unable to wear a face covering due to a health condition or disability and for those whose religious beliefs prevent them from wearing one. Also exempt are those who fall under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance for those who should not wear a face covering.

Face coverings are not required while exercising or engaging in athletic activity if a minimum of six (6) feet physical distancing can be maintained.

Enforcement of this proclamation will focus first on educating and working to promote best practices; however, repeat violations may result in a civil citation or fine.

Read the Declaration of Emergency Proclamation [\(LINK\)](#)

Additionally, the city will be closing City Hall and other city administrative buildings to the public effective 5 p.m. Friday, June 19 until further notice. Select entrances will be open for Primary Election voting only from July 8 through August 4.

While City Hall is closed to the public, city business will continue to be conducted and core services will not be affected, including fire-medical, police, trash, water and other essential city services.

With the reclosing of City Hall, limited staff will be on site and other staff will be telecommuting.

The following city facilities will be closed to the public for walk-in services, although select services are available by appointment:

- City Hall (including service counters for: City Clerk, Cashier, Development Services)
 - EXCEPTION FOR VOTING: City Hall is a designated polling place for the Primary Election. The City Hall Community Room will be open for voting July 8 - August 4. To access the Community Room, please enter through the north or south entrance to City Hall at the Mayor's Atrium (eastern end of the building). For more information on the election or to register to vote, please visit <https://recorder.maricopa.gov/>
- Fire Administration
- Senior Center (meal delivery and pick-up will continue)
- Parks & Recreation Offices
- Countryside, Sierra Montana & Villanueva Recreation Centers

Doors will remain open at the following facilities:

- Police Department
- Fire Stations
- City Court
- Surprise Resource Center

City libraries are managed by Maricopa County Library District and remain closed to the public. Their digital collection is available 24/7 at mclidaz.org/emedial. Additionally, curbside pickup options are available at all three Surprise Libraries: Asante, Hollyhock and Northwest Regional Library. Learn more, [here](#).

The city's outdoor parks and recreation facilities and amenities that have reopened will remain open.

For information on how to conduct city business during this time, please visit the city's COVID-19 webpage at surpriseaz.gov/COVID-19 or call 623.222.1900.

The city reminds residents that in addition to wearing face coverings over your nose and mouth, the following recommendations have been issued by public health authorities and are also recommended by the city of Surprise to best protect our community:

- Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care

For information on the COVID-19 virus, please visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for a national perspective, and [azdhs.gov](https://www.azdhs.gov) for Arizona information.



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**SECOND PROCLAMATION
BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SURPRISE, ARIZONA
UNDER DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DATED MARCH 17, 2020**

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Mayor of the City of Surprise (the “City”), Skip Hall, proclaimed that a local emergency exists in the City of Surprise due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 26-307, Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 26-311, Section 2-40 of the City of Surprise Municipal Code, and the March 17, 2020 Declaration of Emergency empowers the Mayor to govern by proclamation and impose all necessary regulations to preserve the peace and order of the City;

WHEREAS, as of June 19, 2020, there have been 46,689 diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in Arizona including 1,312 deaths and the state is seeing an increase in the number of cases and hospitalizations;

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2020, Arizona Governor Douglas Ducey issued Executive Order # 2020-40, in which, for the first time since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor has authorized local jurisdictions, based on conditions in same, to adopt policies regarding the wearing of face coverings in public for the purpose of mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

WHEREAS, as of June 19, 2020, there have been 405 reported cases of COVID-19 in the City of Surprise.

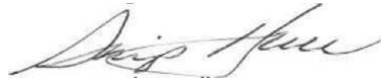
THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND IMPOSED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That a public health emergency due to COVID-19 continues to exist in the City of Surprise.
2. For the purpose of mitigating the spread of COVID-19, beginning June 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM Arizona time, all persons shall wear a Face Covering while in all public settings within the city limits of the City of Surprise where it is impracticable or difficult to maintain a minimum physical distance of six (6) feet from all other persons present, unless exempted herein. Public settings where it is impracticable or difficult to maintain physical distancing shall include, but by no means be limited to, grocery stores, retail stores, pharmacies, restaurants and bars, recreation facilities, libraries, public transportation, any place of public accommodation where lines or crowds form, and special events.
3. Exemptions:
 - A. The following persons shall not be required to wear a Face Covering:
 - i. Persons under the age of two (2);
 - ii. Persons who fall under the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention’s guidance for those who should not wear a face covering;
 - iii. Persons who are unable to wear a face covering due to a medical or mental health condition or disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended;

- iv. Persons whose religious beliefs prevent them from wearing a Face Covering;
 - v. Public Safety employees, first responders, and field employees engaged in essential functions, when wearing a Face Covering would interfere with or limit their ability to carry out their duties or function;
 - vi. Persons complying with the directions of public safety employees.
- B. Face Coverings shall not be required:
- i. In a private residence;
 - ii. In a private vehicle either alone or with persons who all reside within the same residence;
 - iii. In a public setting when the only persons within six (6) feet are persons who reside within the same residence;
 - iv. During any activity in which a Face Covering would render the activity impossible, dangerous, or jeopardize the wearer's health, including, but by no means limited to, eating (restaurant patrons not seated at a table must wear a Face Covering), drinking, swimming, dental or medical examination or treatment;
 - v. While engaged in exercise, physical training, or athletic activity so long as physical distancing of a minimum of six (6) feet is maintained.
4. For purposes of this Proclamation, a Face Covering is defined as:
- A. A face mask fabricated to cover the nose and mouth;
 - B. A cloth face covering which covers the nose and mouth and is large enough to be secured under the chin and can be secured to the head with ties, straps, loops, or bands over the ears or can be tied or looped to the back of the head;
 - C. A bandana, scarf, or similar clothing which can be wrapped around the lower portion of the face;
 - D. A transparent plastic safety face shield.
5. When required by this Proclamation, Face Coverings shall be worn per guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by covering both the mouth and nose, fitting snugly, but also allowing the wearer to breathe easily.
6. Any enforcement of this proclamation shall focus first on educating and working to promote best practices to accomplish the goal of mitigation. Any person who violates any provision of this Proclamation shall first be provided a warning. Any person who violates any provision of this Proclamation for a second or subsequent time shall be responsible for a civil offense with a maximum fine of \$250.00 per violation. Issuance of a civil citation for violation shall be discretionary and based on the totality of the circumstances, considering any and all mitigating and aggravating factors.

7. If any provision of this proclamation or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, this invalidity affects no other provision or application of this proclamation. Those provisions that remain valid shall be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this proclamation are declared to be severable.
8. This Proclamation shall remain in full force and effect until amended or terminated by order of the Mayor or until notice of repeal or revision by the Governor of the State of Arizona per Paragraph 7 of Executive Order 2020-40, whichever occurs first.

PROCLAIMED, DECLARED, AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SURPRISE, ARIZONA THIS 19th DAY OF JUNE, 2020.



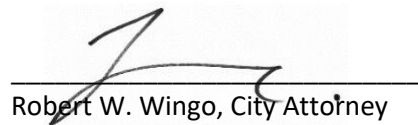
Skip Hall, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sherry Aguilar, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Robert W. Wingo, City Attorney