



Easy to understand guidelines for the mask ordinance #9264

What the ordinance DOES:

1. It does require the use of facial coverings in accordance with Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidelines.
2. It recognizes the importance of face coverings in stopping the spread of a virus that has had a devastating impact on our community and our economy.
3. It does recognize in the science-based judgment of the medical community and infectious disease experts facial coverings do inhibit the spread of this virus.
4. It does recognize the rights of our business owners to require the use of facial coverings in accordance with the directives and guidance of the ADH.
5. It authorizes The North Little Rock Police Department to provide assistance when necessary. This support role of law enforcement consists of: (1) EDUCATING about the importance of wearing a facial covering, (2) ENCOURAGING those who refuse to wear a facial covering and (3) ESCORTING a person from the premises at the request of the business owner if they refuse to comply with the guidelines relating to facial coverings

What the ordinance DOES NOT do:

1. It does not require our citizens to wear a facial covering at all times, only when a 6-foot social distance cannot be assured as per the ADH guidelines.
2. It does not say that if person refuses to wear a mask, they cannot still support local businesses. A person can take advantage of curbside pick-up, utilize drive throughs, take part in meal and product delivery services, etc.
3. It does not put an undue burden on any business or any person beyond what is necessary to help slow the spread of COVID-19.
4. It does not last indefinitely. This facial covering requirement will expire when the ADH says facial coverings are no longer necessary to assisting in controlling the pandemic.
5. It does not attempt to circumvent the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) but instead comply with it considering the on-going, ever-changing circumstances and issues the pandemic presents.
6. It does not limit anyone's ability to eat, shop, socialize, gather, travel, spectate, worship, visit loved ones or friends, go to parks, work, workout or participate in any other activities.

The action by the City Council in approving this Ordinance is therefore consistent with, and an extension of, the statewide efforts of our Governor and Health Secretary to stop the spread of this virus and to restore the economic viability to our community and the citizens who live and work here. The Governor's proclamation therefore, strikes a balance between two important concerns, individual liberty and the necessity for the greater good to stop the spread of COVID-19.