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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

July 24, 2020

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cloth Face Coverings and Face Masks Advisory In Brief:

- This is only a public health advisory. *This is not a mandate, requirement, or ordinance and is therefore, not enforceable.*
- This is a public health advisory, recommending individuals within the community to wear a mask to help slow the spread of COVID-19.
- Community spread of the virus continues to be an issue in Milton and Rock County.
- Wearing a mask is proven to be the most effective way to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus in conjunction with washing hands with soap and water or using hand sanitizer and physical distancing.
- This public health advisory shows support for those community members and businesses who are already wearing and requiring masks, while strongly encouraging those to wear face masks and require masks in their establishments who have not done so yet.
- Please do NOT call the Milton Police Department or the Rock County Communications Center (911) to report a person not wearing a mask.

Cloth Face Coverings and Face Masks Advisory In Full:

The City of Milton is issuing this advisory stating that everyone age 2 and older, in accordance with guidelines released by the Rock County Public Health Department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and World Health Organization (WHO), should wear a cloth face covering or face mask when in any enclosed building where other people, except for members of the person's own household or living unit, could be present. In addition, the City of Milton is encouraging businesses in our community to implement a mask requirement for those entering their facilities.

Community members should wear a cloth face covering or face mask that covers their nose and mouth simultaneously when in public visiting businesses, health providers, and other locations. Cloth face coverings or face masks should also be worn when visiting someone's home outside of the same family group. Understandably, the masks cannot be worn while eating or drinking at



a restaurant, but 6 feet distancing of individuals not from the same household or living unit should be followed. Some people may be exempted if they have a physical, mental, or developmental condition that prevents them from wearing a mask.

If someone is unable to wear a cloth face covering or face mask in a business or indoor public space due to a reason stated above, community members should ask for a reasonable accommodation, like a curbside pickup or delivery option. If your child is not able to wear a mask, only bring them to necessary places so your child does not contract and/or spread COVID-19 to others.

Community members can cover their faces a variety of ways to comply with this advisory. Simply wear a bandana, scarf, or neck gaiter around your nose and mouth. Cloth face coverings are also available for purchase at local businesses or through local artisans. Instructions to sew your own cloth face covering or create one with a no-sew method are also available on the CDC website. Medical-grade surgical masks or N95 respirators are not required or necessary for general public use and should be saved for professionals who need them most.

“The City of Milton and Rock County as a whole are experiencing an increase in positive COVID-19 cases,” Mayor Anissa Welch said. “Because of this, it’s important that all of our community members do their part to stop the spread of the virus. In addition to washing our hands with soap and water or using hand sanitizer, physically distancing whenever possible, and covering our nose and mouth when we cough or sneeze, we also need to take this step as a community to wear face masks or cloth face coverings. By doing our part, we will help businesses stay in business by keeping their staff and customers as healthy as possible, protect others if we are positive with COVID-19 but don’t have symptoms, and help to ensure we will one day return to ‘normal.’”

In support of this advisory, the City of Milton will be requiring all visitors to City of Milton facilities to wear cloth face coverings or face masks beginning **Wednesday, July 29, 2020**. The Common Council approved this policy at their meeting on **July 28, 2020** meeting, and previously approved a policy requiring all employees and elected officials to wear cloth face coverings or face masks in City of Milton facilities.

“This is an important step for the City of Milton in order to protect our staff and their families from contact they may have with a community member who is positive for COVID-19 or who may be positive but don’t know it because they are asymptomatic,” Mayor Welch said. “We request our community members to be understanding and compliant with this requirement. The purpose is to do our part to keep everyone as healthy and safe as possible who we are serving and who are working to serve you, our community members.”

For additional information contact Mayor Anissa Welch, at 608-751-7198 or by e-mail at awelch@milton-wi.gov.



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