

Resolution No. 20-11

WHEREAS, Columbus Public Health is committed to protecting the health and improving the lives of all our residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person. The virus is spread between individuals who are in close contact with each other (within about six feet) through respiratory droplets. It may be possible that individuals can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a statewide Health Alert Network to provide local health departments with updated guidance for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine signed an Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency for the entire State of Ohio in relation to COVID-19 pursuant to the Governor's authority vested in him by the Constitution, the laws of the State of Ohio and in accordance with Revised Code section 5502.22; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency for the entire State of Ohio urged all citizens to heed the advice of the Department of Health and other emergency officials regarding COVID-19 in order to protect their health and safety; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton signed an order prohibiting mass gatherings in the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a National Emergency, invoking the Stafford Act and allowing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster response and aid state and local governments in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Columbus Board of Health declared a Public Health Emergency due to this imminent threat of an acutely hazardous disease, posing a high probability of widespread exposure to an infectious agent that poses a significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people, including a large number of serious or long-term disabilities or a large number of deaths; and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that people are most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest); however, some spread might be possible before people show symptoms; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Mayor, through Executive Order 2020-01, declared a State of Emergency in Columbus based on the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, under the direction of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D. issued an order requiring all Ohioans to stay in their homes to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 until April 6, 2020 and the order was extended until May 1, 2020 and was amended on April 30, May 20, and May 22, 2020 to allow businesses to open with specific social distancing requirements including that face coverings be worn by all employees except in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Columbus and across Franklin County there is a current and ongoing threat of an acutely hazardous disease, illness, or health condition; specifically, COVID-19, that is believed to be caused by the appearance of a novel infectious agent; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Columbus there is a current threat of an acutely hazardous disease, illness, or health condition; specifically, COVID-19, that is believed to be caused by the appearance of a novel infectious agent and Franklin County, where Columbus is located, has been designated by the state Public Health Advisory System Risk Levels as Level 3, characterized by very high exposure and spread with a recommendation to limit activities as much as possible and to follow all current health orders; and

WHEREAS, Mayor of Columbus Andrew J. Ginther signed Executive Order 08-2020 to require the wearing of masks in public places on Thursday, July 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Columbus unanimously passed Ordinance no. 1643-2020 to codify the requirement of wearing masks in public places on Monday, July 6, 2020; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT BE RESOLVED:

The Columbus Board of Health and Columbus Public Health will:

1. Dedicate the time and talents of the staff of the Environmental Health Division to the enforcement of the Mayor of Columbus Andrew J. Ginther's Executive Order 08-2020 and Ordinance no. 1643-2020, passed by Columbus City Council on Monday, July 6, 2020 and effective 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2020.
2. Columbus Public Health will create an appeal process for individuals and businesses within 15 days of receipt of a violation.
3. Educate and encourage all residents and visitors to Columbus to don masks when appropriate to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

4. Advocate for policies and health behaviors that improve health throughout the entire city to reduce the current spread of COVID-19.

ADOPTED: July 7, 2020


Maysheika W. Roberts, MD, MPH
Secretary


Karen J. Morrison, JD, MS
President Pro Tempore