As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues, surrounding communities have taken an opportunity to strengthen the State of Maine's Enforcement Order requiring face coverings. In April, the State of Maine issued an Executive Order to require face coverings in public places where social distancing is difficult to maintain. In May, businesses were required to post signs notifying customers of this requirement. In July, the State of Maine changed the order to require retail stores with 50,000 sq. ft. to mandate face coverings. This would be in the counties of Hancock, Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Cumberland, and York. Cities also included in the order were Bangor, Brewer, Lewiston, Auburn, and Augusta.

This order also allows municipalities to enforce the use of face coverings on streets and sidewalks, in parks and other public spaces where individuals are not able to maintain social distancing requirements.

Most recently the City of Hallowell, and the Town of Winthrop placed in motion a similar order required in their municipality. Troy Cutler, Infection Nurse Specialist for Maine General, and Sarah Fuller, Chairperson for the Town of Winthrop Council, will be present to discuss this issue.

The City Council will be asked to consider placing a face covering requirement as part of an Emergency Order for the City of Gardiner.
To Fight COVID-19, Governor Mills Strengthens Enforcement of Face Covering Requirement as Maine Reopens

July 8, 2020

In line with nearly every other state in the nation, Governor Mills also renews Maine's State of Civil Emergency for another 30 days

Governor Janet Mills today issued an Executive Order requiring large retail businesses, restaurants, outdoor bars, tasting rooms, and lodging establishments in Maine's more populous cities and coastal counties to enforce the State's face covering requirement.

The new Executive Order strengthens the enforcement component of the Governor's face covering requirement. The Executive Order comes as Maine continues to reopen its economy and welcome visitors from other states. Scientific evidence demonstrates that wearing a face covering can significantly reduce the transmission of COVID-19, helping protect the health and safety of Maine people.

"It is important that we wear face coverings as people begin to interact more and more," said Governor Mills. "Doing so can slow the spread of COVID-19, protect the health and safety of those around us, support businesses, and allow us to safely reopen our economy. I know it may be inconvenient for some, but I also believe that Maine people care about each other, and this simple gesture is a small price to pay for knowing you could save someone's life."

"Research shows that face coverings help limit potential transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19," said Dr. Nirav D. Shah, Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. "Wearing a face covering in public places where physical distancing is difficult shows respect for others and reduces the risk that the virus could spread as more people move about Maine."

Under an April Executive Order, individuals are required to wear face coverings in public places where physical distancing is difficult to maintain, as recommended by the U.S. CDC. In a May Executive Order, businesses were required to post readily visible signs notifying customers of this face covering requirement and were permitted to deny entry or service to a person not wearing a covering.

Today's Executive Order strengthens that by mandating businesses require face coverings in retail stores with more than 50,000 square feet of shopping space, restaurants, outdoor bars or tasting rooms, and lodging establishments. It applies to businesses in the coastal counties of Hancock, Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Cumberland, and York, as well as in the cities of Bangor, Brewer, Lewiston, Auburn, and Augusta. The Executive Order focuses on these areas given the congregation of people in Maine's larger cities as well as the influx of tourists in destinations along Maine's coast. Under the Order, municipalities may enforce the use of face coverings on streets and sidewalks, in parks and other public spaces where individuals are not able to maintain at least six feet of physical distance.

The Order may be enforced by any governmental department or official that regulates licenses, permits or otherwise authorizes the operation or occupancy of eating establishments, bars or tasting rooms, lodging operations and accommodations, businesses, buildings, parks and campgrounds. A violation may be
construed to be a violation of any such license, permit and other authorization to which pertinent penalties, such as a revocation of said licenses or permits, may be assessed. The Administration has established a reporting form for alleged violations of the State’s health and safety protocols.

“Wearing a mask is the single best precaution one can take to prevent the spread of COVID-19,” said David Rolins, Mayor of Augusta. “Wearing one shows respect for others, respect for the businesses trying to survive, as well as a respect for our elders and our most vulnerable populations. Please wear a mask to protect yourself, and those that you come near to. We are all in this together.”

“Maine is filled with small communities from our largest cities to our smallest towns. Communities come together in times of celebration and in times of need. In this time of need, please do your part in protecting our most vulnerable, by wearing a mask when inside any public building,” said Mark A. Coyer, Mayor of Lewiston.

To assist municipal governments with enforcement activities and public health prevention and education efforts, the Mills Administration recently awarded nearly $9 million in grants to approximately 100 towns and cities throughout the state under the Keep Maine Healthy plan. The federal funding reimburses municipal costs associated with these activities, such as staff time for a Code Enforcement Officer, Local Health Officer, or other designated person to be the local contact for educating local businesses on best practices. This may include following up on public complaints and, for certain cases, reporting to State officials when there is a potential public health violation that cannot be quickly resolved through educational means.

The U.S. CDC advises the use of face coverings in public settings, such as grocery stores or pharmacies, to slow the spread of COVID-19. Recent research indicates that a significant portion of individuals with COVID-19 do not experience symptoms, and that those who go on to develop symptoms can transmit the virus to others before feeling sick. While a face covering is not intended to protect the wearer, it may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. However, face coverings are no substitute for physical distancing and other recommendations, as described below.

Cloth face coverings can be made at home from common materials. Governor Mills also encourages Maine people to purchase face coverings from a Maine-based company to support local businesses. The Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership has compiled a list of Maine companies producing face coverings, which the Administration has shared with Maine people as a resource.

States across the country, such as North Carolina, Nevada, Washington, Texas and Oregon, have implemented similar strong measures related to face coverings, given the evidence that masks significantly reduce transmission of the virus.

Governor Mills today also extended the State of Civil Emergency for thirty days through August 6, 2020. A State of Civil Emergency allows Maine to continue to draw down critical Federal resources and to deploy all available resources to respond to COVID-19. The Governor’s decision to extend the emergency is in line with nearly every other state in the nation, which also have ongoing emergency declarations, according to the National Governors Association.

“As Maine continues to reopen our economy, we must remember this dangerous virus is still among us,” said Governor Mills. “If we stay vigilant and take all necessary precautions to protect ourselves and those around us, like wearing a face covering, washing hands and staying six feet apart, then we can stay safe and healthy and limit the spread of COVID-19 in Maine.”

This is Governor Mills’ fourth extension of the State of Civil Emergency. Under Maine law, State of Civil Emergency Proclamations may only be issued in thirty day increments. It comes as Maine is in Stage 3 of the Restarting Maine’s Economy Plan and has reopened the vast majority of its economy.

Copies of the Executive Order and the State of Civil Emergency Proclamation are attached.
HALLOWELL — City businesses will be asked to enforce mask-wearing guidelines similar to those outlined in larger municipalities under a new order from city officials.

City officials signed an order around 11 a.m. Monday that mimics a July 8 order from Gov. Janet Mills that ordered larger municipalities to enforce face-covering orders. The order — which went into effect immediately — requires businesses to enforce the order in “retail stores, grocery stores, health care facilities, exercise facilities, restaurants and dining facilities, outdoor bars, pubs, public transportation providers including ride sharing, and lodging establishments.”

Related

Mills issues order for businesses to enforce state’s mask requirement
The requirement also includes “waiting areas and take-out service for restaurants and pubs, congested areas in the downtown district including parking lots, and any instance where the public typically gathers in a smaller area.”

City Manager Nate Rudy said Tuesday that the city’s focus is more on education, rather than enforcement and punishment. He said businesses are already subject to some guidelines enforced by the state, and enforcement action can come from the relevant state department.

“Our emphasis is on education and information ... to people who frequent those businesses,” said Rudy. “I hope that folks who support the police and support the fire department will show that support by wearing a mask when they visit downtown.”

People line the sides of Water Street on Monday to welcome home Hallowell business owner and resident Chris Vallee, who was recently released from the hospital after suffering a number of complications following surgery eight weeks ago to remove his kidney. Photo by Hanna Keene

Hours after the order was put into place Monday, citizens lined the sides of Water Street to welcome home Hallowell business owner and resident Chris Vallee. He had his kidney removed eight weeks ago and was recently released from the hospital after suffering a number of complications.

Hallowell police Chief Scott MacMaster said between 200 and 300 people attended the event, where Vallee was pushed down Water Street in a wheelchair surrounded by his friends and family.
Ann Vallee Lachance, Vallee’s sister who pushed him down Water Street during the parade, said the event was organized within a day of when the family knew Vallee was being discharged. She said Vallee was “blown away” by the show of support.

Lachance said most people at the event who she recognized were wearing masks and anyone who she spoke with encouraged others to wear masks.

“I had to tell people to back off,” she said. “One woman went to try and kiss him and I said ‘you can’t kiss him.’”

In some photos of the event, many people can be seen wearing masks. There were people who turned out, however, including several that can be seen in a photo of Vallee that were not wearing any face coverings and not being socially distant.

Lachance, who is also part of the ownership group at the Quarry Tap Room, was aware of the new order and said it is posted on the host station at the restaurant. She said she was “a little nervous” about backlash about the gathering, but never expected the turnout to be as large as it was, likening it to Old Hallowell Day.

“Our community is so strong and supportive,” she said. “We’re so fortunate to live in such an amazing community.”

MacMaster said city police were focused on pedestrian safety and traffic control during the event, but did work with organizers to make sure social distancing and mask-wearing guidelines were observed. When asked how many people were not wearing masks at the event, MacMaster said “a small percentage” of attendees were unmasked, but if they were not wearing a mask, they were observing from a safe social distance.

In a letter that accompanied the order, Rudy said Hallowell officials “want to do more to ensure public safety” due to its proximity to Augusta, which was included in the Mills order, its status as “a destination for summer tourists,” and its density of senior or assisted living facilities.

The order was recommended by the city’s Board of Health, which comprises three local doctors, Annette Beyea, Scott Schiff-Slater and Sydney Sewall. The board’s recommendation, explained in a letter to Mayor Mark Walker, is that wearing a mask is “the easiest thing people can do to reduce the risk of community health and safety.”
On Tuesday, Patti Burnett was cutting a man’s hair in Dom’s Barber Shop while barber Julie Keithley was preparing to cut another man’s hair. All four were wearing masks. When Burnett was asked if increased enforcement will affect her business, she motioned to a sign on the door that asked customers to wear masks before entering.

“It’s for the good of all,” Burnett said, adding that guidelines for salons and barbershops require masks anyway.

John Merrill, owner of Merrill’s Bookshop at 110 Water St., said the order would not change policy in his store, which requires face coverings to enter. He said he has only turned away one customer for not wearing a mask since his shop reopened on June 1. Merrill said, regardless of guidelines, he would make wearing masks required in his shop.

“I make it very clear that no one gets in (without a mask),” he said Tuesday. “I’m not going to put my other customers at risk.”

Just down Water Street, Loyal Dog Biscuit Co. employee Rachel Theriault said the store has been “pretty strict” with patrons about wearing masks, but has seen a little bit of resistance from some customers who do not wear masks while shopping. As for the new order, Theriault said a change in store policy would have to come from ownership.

Related

While Augusta has rescinded its coronavirus emergency order, other central Maine municipalities keep theirs in place

Winthrop officials instituted a similar order last month. Town Select Board Chairperson Sarah Fuller said the town made the change because officials believed it did not make sense to have pockets of enforcement. She also said the town has been “dealing with a lot of complaints” about local businesses not enforcing mask-wearing requirements.

Winthrop’s new guidelines state that “individuals must wear face masks or shields in ... eating establishments, bars or tasting rooms, lodging operations and accommodations, businesses, buildings, parks, and campgrounds.”

Invalid username/password.
While Augusta has rescinded its coronavirus emergency order, other central Maine municipalities keep theirs in place

By Sam Shepherd/Kennebec Journal

WINTHROP — While Augusta has rescinded its emergency declaration related to the coronavirus, other central Maine communities are using theirs to strengthen local guidelines.

In March, Augusta, Gardiner, Hallowell and Winthrop issued emergency orders related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Those orders gave municipal officials the authority to quickly make decisions, when normal municipal government would have caused those decisions to wait for meetings.

On Monday, the Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention reported 18 more cases, adding to 3,832 confirmed or probable cases and 119 coronavirus-related deaths. The number of active cases in Maine was 421 on Monday.

Central Maine municipalities implement emergency plans

Augusta rescinded its emergency order July 16, with city officials indicating the city’s order was made redundant by guidelines set by Gov. Janet Mills. The other three municipalities still have their orders in place.

Winthrop Town Council Chairperson Sarah Fuller said the town does not have any plans to rescind the order. She said the town’s Emergency Management Agency continues to meet weekly to monitor and evaluate how the pandemic is progressing.

In fact, Winthrop officials tightened local mask-wearing guidelines last week, even though the town was not included in a new batch of geographical areas where enforcement was mandated by Mills on July 8.
That order required large retail businesses, restaurants, outdoor bars, tasting rooms and lodging establishments in Cumberland, York, Hancock, Waldo, Knox, Lincoln and Sagadahoc counties, and the cities of Bangor, Brewer, Lewiston, Auburn and Augusta to enforce the requirement for people to wear face coverings in areas where social distancing is not possible.

Winthrop’s new guidelines state that “individuals must wear face masks or shields in ... eating establishments, bars or tasting rooms, lodging operations and accommodations, businesses, buildings, parks, and campgrounds.”

Fuller said the town made the change because officials believed it did not make sense to have pockets of enforcement. She also said the town has been “dealing with a lot of complaints” about local businesses not enforcing mask-wearing requirements.

Related

**Mills issues order for businesses to enforce state’s mask requirement**

Winthrop Town Manager Jeffrey Kobrock said town officials aren’t planning to rescind the order as the count of cases ticks up around the country. Also part of the consideration, he said, is Winthrop’s seasonal appeal, which brings a number of out-of-staters to the lakeside town.

“It’s not entirely out of the question that we might find ourselves back in the (types of conditions like in March or April) some time in the near future,” Kobrock said. “Anyone who has spent summers in this area knows that there are a lot of out-of-state visitors all summer long. That’s one of the things we’ve been concerned about.”

Fuller said the town is looking to stay vigilant, even as Maine’s cases are trending downward, especially as schools begin to reopen and people begin to leave home more often.

“When things are opening and Maine’s numbers stay low, people can lured into a false sense of security,” she said. “We should stay vigilant, even as people are eager.”

Because their towns are not included in the stricter requirements, Gardiner and Hallowell officials also said the municipal orders allow them to enforce guidelines and act quickly during the pandemic.

Gardiner City Manager Christine Landes said the town’s emergency operations staff will meet Tuesday to discuss rescinding the order, but there will be no item on the agenda for the August 5 City Council meeting. She said city officials may take it up in September.
Mayor Pat Hart said the City Council is operating as normal under the order, except for the renewal of liquor licenses, which is handled by Landes and Hart without a vote of the full council.

Gardiner Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Al Nelson said the emergency management team was not planning to change anything, but wanted to keep the order up so it could have the “flexibility” to make changes if needed.

Hallowell City Manager and Health Officer Nate Rudy also said now may not be the “right time” to rescind the city’s emergency. Another factor, he said is that by ordinance City Hall is required to be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Under the emergency order, Rudy said, City Hall’s hours were able to be reduced to protect employees from potential exposure to the coronavirus.

There is an amendment to that ordinance currently before the City Council that would change the requirement. It strikes the times City Hall must be open and authorizes the City Manager “to close city offices when prudent,” citing weather and other emergency conditions. The first of three readings was passed on July 13.

Rudy said once the ordinance passes, a review of the emergency declaration may take place.

If there is an uptick in cases in Kennebec County, Rudy said, the city may institute a second state of emergency in response. He said Hallowell should be cautious in terms of public health, as it is home to a number of care facilities.

“It’s especially incumbent on us to take precautions to protect public health,” Rudy said.

He also said he has considered presenting a tougher mask-wearing enforcement mandate to the City Council, which has been recommended by the city’s Board of Health.
ORDER OF THE CITY MANAGER
Order 20-09

Pursuant to Sections 4-910 through 4-924 of the City of Hallowell Revised Code of Ordinances (1997), the City Manager hereby finds and orders as follows:

WHEREAS, the risk of community spread of COVID-19 seriously impacts the life, health and safety of the public, and public health is imperiled by the person-to-person spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Janet Mills, the Governor of the State of Maine, declared a Civil State of Emergency on March 15, 2020 related to the spread of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) and renewed that order on April 14, May 13, June 10, and again on July 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The City of Hallowell declared under Order 20-01 a city-wide State of Emergency due to imminent civil emergency effective March 18; and

WHEREAS, the Hallowell City Council voted unanimously to declare Order 20-02, extending the city-wide State of Emergency effective March 23; and

WHEREAS, Janet Mills, the Governor of the State of Maine, issued an Executive Order effective March 25, 2020 mandating that all non-essential businesses and operations in Maine close their physical locations that are public facing and extended that order through May 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Janet Mills, the Governor of the State of Maine, issued an Executive Order effective May 11, 2020 instituting a Rural Reopening Plan that allowed for reopening of certain businesses in rural Maine, including those in Kennebec County; and

WHEREAS, Governor Mills’ Rural Reopening Plan also provided a set of “COVID-19 Prevention Checklists” which offer specific health and safety practices for Maine businesses to protect the public and their employees; and
WHEREAS, Governor Mills implemented a “Stay Safer at Home” Executive Order requiring Maine people to wear cloth face coverings in public places where physical distancing is difficult to maintain on April 28, 2020, and issued an Executive Order requiring large retail businesses, restaurants, outdoor bars, tasting rooms, and lodging establishments in Maine’s more populous cities and coastal counties to enforce the State’s face covering requirement on July 8, 2020;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in me through the statutes of the State of Maine, Sections 4-910 through 4-924 of the City of Hallowell Revised Code of Ordinances (1997), and common law authority to protect the public’s health, safety and welfare in the event of an emergency, I, Nathaniel Rudy, City Manager of the City of Hallowell, do hereby ORDER as follows:

Retail stores, grocery stores, health care facilities, exercise facilities, restaurants and dining facilities, outdoor bars, pubs, public transportation providers including ride sharing, and lodging establishments in Hallowell including short term rentals are required to enforce the Governor’s mask / face covering orders of April 28 and July 8, 2020. This requirement also includes waiting areas and take-out service for restaurants and pubs, congested areas in the downtown district including parking lots, and any instance where the public typically gathers in a smaller area.

City Hall administrative offices will continue limited service, and will be suspended at the discretion of the City Manager in the event of a resurgence of Coronavirus in Kennebec and/or surrounding counties.

City buildings will remain closed to the general public through Monday, September 7, 2020, except as necessary for delivery of essential services and limited access to the Clerk’s office, as determined by the City Manager and following the Governor’s Executive Orders.

The North Bay recycling center will remain open on a limited basis, with only two (2) people allowed inside the center at a time, and will be suspended at the discretion of the City Manager in the event of misuse, and/or a resurgence of Coronavirus in Kennebec and/or surrounding counties.

The Vaughan Field Playground is reopened for public use. Citizens must monitor their own COVID-19 safety and risk exposure while using all public parks and open spaces, and use of this facility will be suspended at the discretion of the City Manager in the event of reported misuse, abuse, or disregard for COVID-19 safety.
The RES gate will remain open for permitted users to access the RES park, and will be subject to closure at the discretion of the City Manager. Citizens must monitor their own COVID-19 safety and risk exposure while using the RES facilities.

Interested parties are required to obtain a permit via mail from the City Clerk’s office to park in the RES parking lot. The permit application form is available on the City website, and payment may be made via check or money order:


This Order shall be effective immediately and the directives issued under it and previous Orders 20-01, 20-02, 20-03, 20-04, 20-05, 20-06, and 20-08 that are not rescinded here shall remain in effect until the City Manager is satisfied that the Civil Emergency no longer exists and terminates the emergency proclamations by another proclamation.

__________________________  _________________________________
Nathaniel Rudy, City Manager  Monday, August 3, 2020
August 3, 2020

**Hallowell Mask / Face Covering Order 20-09**

Dear friends and citizens of Hallowell,

I met last week with the physician members of the Hallowell Board of Health, and in consultation with them and Hallowell’s Emergency Operations Center Staff, and with the City Council members present at the EOCS meeting, we discussed the community health benefits of a local order requiring the proper use of face masks or coverings while people are in enclosed spaces and/or outside in places where the minimum of six feet of distance can’t be consistently maintained.

On July 8, the Governor ordered that certain businesses in Maine’s larger municipalities and coastal tourism destinations are required to enforce her April 28 mask / face covering order, to protect public health and the safety of both patrons and employees. Recognizing that Hallowell is a neighbor to one of those larger municipalities, and also that our popular restaurants, businesses, cultural assets, and open spaces are a destination for summer tourists from around the nation, we want to do more to ensure public safety.

Hallowell is a community that cares. We’re home to four large residences / care facilities for older people and also for people who may have mitigating health issues. And, we’re a welcoming community with a broad cross section of personal health needs and family challenges resulting from the COVID-19 emergency. For these reasons, and to protect our small business, restaurant, pub, and lodging economy, we will today implement an executive order under our city-wide state of emergency that requires businesses to enforce the Governor’s face covering / mask order in retail stores, restaurants and dining establishments, bars, recreational facilities, lodging facilities including inns, bed and breakfasts, and short term rentals, on public transportation, and in public buildings and open spaces.

Our neighboring Town of Winthrop has implemented similar requirements, recognizing that a regional approach will make things easier and safer for everyone in central Maine: same rules, same reasons, same concern for the health, safety, and well-being of our friends, neighbors, elders, veterans, and first responders.
Residents with questions or concerns about compliance with this order can contact Doug Ide, the Hallowell Code Enforcement Officer, at 207-430-4405, or Nate Rudy, the City Manager and Health Officer, at 207-430-4403, and we will work with any entities identified for non-compliance with the most current guidance from the State of Maine on complying with local and state requirements. The state has established an online form where residents can report non-compliance with COVID-19, and has also created a list of Maine-based companies that provide masks, COVID-19 related supplies, and other goods and services. We have received reports that public facilities like the playground at Vaughan Field and the RES park have been misused or abused by people who are not honoring safe distancing practices or are leaving their trash and refuse behind. For these spaces to remain open and available to the public, citizens must monitor their own COVID-19 safety and risk exposure while using public parks and open spaces, and City parks are “Carry In, Carry Out” for all trash—bring your mask when you visit, take your trash with you when you go. Facility users are encouraged to contact the Hallowell Police Department at 207-623-3131 to report any misuse or abuse of City parks and open spaces.

Numerous City and State resources and other contact information and updates are available on the City website, along with registration information for our Constant Contact and NIXLE public safety mailing lists: https://hallowell.govoffice.com/

Please join us in bringing your mask and/or face covering with you wherever you are shopping, dining, and recreating throughout central Maine, and thank you for your support!

Respectfully yours,

Nate Rudy

Attachments: Memo from the Board of Health to the Mayor and City Council
City of Hallowell Executive Order 20-09
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 24, 2020
Contacts: Sarah Fuller, Chair, Winthrop Town Council, 207.446.6462; sarah@fullerink.com; Jeffrey Kobrock, Town Manager; 207.377.7200 ext 423; manager@winthropmaine.org

Winthrop’s Updated Public Masking Requirements

WINTHROP, Maine – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in order to foster the safest environments for employees, customers, and the public, Winthrop is aligning the town’s rules with the Governor’s Executive Order (EO) mandating the proper use of facial masks for while people are in enclosed spaces and/or outside where the minimum of 6 ft distance cannot be consistently maintained.

Individuals must wear face masks or shields in the following locations: eating establishments, bars or tasting rooms, lodging operations and accommodations, businesses, buildings, parks, and campgrounds.

Additionally, per the Governor’s Executive Order, “Municipalities are authorized to enforce the use of face coverings on streets and sidewalks, in parks and other public spaces where individuals are gathering and not able to maintain at least six feet of physical distance from one another, and to enforce the gathering limits.”

Businesses and organizations should post at their entrances that facemasks are required for entry and have the right to refuse entry and service to those not wearing a mask.

While larger municipalities were included in the EO, Town Council Chair Sarah Fuller noted, “Uniformity across the region keeps all of us safer. We all shop, eat, work, and recreate in our neighboring communities, and it just makes more sense to be consistent - it helps to eliminate confusion during trying times and protects the health of all through our area.”

While the state has established an online form where residents can report non-compliance with COVID-19, Winthrop residents can also contact the Code Enforcement Office (207-377-7200 Ext. 4270) and a representative will follow-up with information for those involved to ensure they have the most current guidance on complying with these requirements.

“We’ve heard from several of our member businesses that the majority of customers are relieved and pleased that companies are following mask policies,” noted, Bill Stone, president of the Winthrop Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce. He added, “Conversely, we do see a fair amount of worry about those businesses that aren’t in compliance, and hope that everyone will do what it takes to protect each other and help get things back to full speed as soon as safely possible.”

Should you or your organization need to acquire masks, or other COVID-19 related supplies, the State and Maine MEP (Manufacturing Extension Partnership) has a list of Maine-based companies that are providing these goods and services.
For additional Winthrop notices:

As a reminder: people can sign-up to receive updates on the new town website under the section marked “Winthrop Alerts.” This new email notification system will provide updates as they are available, as well as on the Town’s Facebook page and those of the emergency departments (EMS/Ambulance, Police, Fire).

Questions for school-related activities and polices should be directed to Superintendent James Hodgkin: 377-2296 x2001.

Questions for municipal-related activities should be directed to Town Manager Jeffrey Kobrock, 207.377.7200 ext 423.

###
AN ORDER TO STAY SAFER AT HOME

WHEREAS, I proclaimed a state of emergency on March 15, 2020 and a renewed state of emergency on April 14, 2020 to authorize the use of emergency powers in order to expand and expedite the State’s response to the serious health and safety risks of the highly contagious COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, between March 18th and April 3rd I issued Executive Orders 14, 19, 28 and 34 FY 19/20 that, for the reasons and upon the authorities stated therein, imposed until April 30th certain emergency rules and limitations necessary to respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to extend the effective dates of those Orders to continue to protect public health while, at the same time, implementing the Together We Are Maine: Restarting Maine’s Economy Plan (hereinafter Restarting Plan), as the deliberative process to identify how certain restrictions on businesses and activities can be safely and incrementally eased over time;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, pursuant to 37-B M.R.S. Ch. 13, including but not limited to the authorities cited in the Proclamations and Orders referenced above, do hereby Order as follows:

I. PURPOSE

The purposes of this Order are to continue to prioritize protection of public health and safety by keeping certain existing public safety measures for business and personal activities in effect through May 31, 2020 and to implement the Restarting Plan to assess how certain restrictions may, consistent with expert public health guidance, be safely eased to permit more economic and personal activity.
II. CONTINUED PRIORITY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Protection of public health and our health care delivery system shall remain the first priority. The Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shall continue to advise on COVID-19 trends and metrics to guide the timing, pace and scope of any easing of current restrictions. Maine CDC currently tracks, subject to change, three primary metrics:

A. a downward trajectory of reported influenza-like illnesses and COVID-like syndromic cases;
B. a downward trajectory of documented cases and newly hospitalized patients; and
C. the capacity of Maine’s hospital systems to treat all patients without crisis care and the ability of the State to engage in a robust testing program.

III. EXISTING EXECUTIVE ORDERS EXTENDED

To continue to protect public health, the effective dates of Executive Orders 14, 19, 28 and 34 FY 19/20 are hereby extended through May 31, 2020 unless sooner amended. All other provisions of such Orders remain in effect and subject to interpretive guidance. Such guidance includes, but is not limited to, the implementation of the Restarting Plan, incorporated into this Order by this reference.

IV. STAGES OF THE RESTARTING PLAN

Starting May 1, 2020, and consistent with Maine CDC/DHHS tracking metrics and recommendations, the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) shall implement the Restarting Plan and identify businesses and activities where current restrictions may be adjusted to safely allow for more economic and personal activity. Businesses and activities so identified may receive a conditional approval consistent with the Restarting Plan. Any such approval is subject to change depending upon the demonstrated efficacy of the conditions imposed or the changing or general needs of public health. Any such approval is also subject to suspension or revocation depending upon actual and consistent compliance with such conditions. DHHS shall issue guidance for DECD and others on the process for health services identified in the Restarting Plan.

V. CLOTH FACE COVERINGS

Consistent with guidance from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention individuals must wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

A. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings.
1. "Public settings” mean:
   
   a. indoor spaces that are accessible to the public such as grocery stores, retail stores, pharmacies and health care facilities;
   
   b. outdoor spaces such as playgrounds, busy parking lots, and other areas such as lines for take-out service where the public typically gathers in a smaller area; and
   
   c. public transportation such as a taxi, Uber, Lyft, ride-sharing or similar service; ferry, bus, or train; and any semi-enclosed transit stop or waiting area.

   Employers in settings that are not typically accessible to the public may determine the persons who should wear a cloth face covering at their workplace and shall permit any employee who wants to wear a covering to do so.

2. "Individual” means any person in such settings irrespective of whether the person is an employee, customer, vendor, invitee or other.

3. "Cloth Face Covering“ is a protection that covers the nose and mouth; fits snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; is secured with ties or ear loops; has multiple layers of fabric; allows for breathing without restriction; and is able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to its shape.

B. Exceptions. Cloth face coverings are not required for children under age 2, a child in a child care setting, or for anyone who has trouble breathing or related medical conditions, or who is otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. A person who cannot wear a cloth face covering because of a medical condition is not required to produce medical documentation of the condition, provided that an employer may require such documentation from an employee in accordance with state and federal law.

C. Other. Cloth face coverings are not a replacement for adhering to social distancing protocols. As recommended by current CDC guidance, surgical masks and N-95 respirators are critical supplies that will remain be reserved for health care workers, medical first responders, and other workers as recommended by Federal guidance.
VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order takes effect on April 29, 2020, with section V taking effect on May 1, 2020.

Janet T. Mills
Governor
AN ORDER TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE RESTARTING PLAN

WHEREAS, I proclaimed a state of emergency on March 15, 2020 and renewed states of emergency on April 14, 2020 and May 13, 2020 to authorize the use of emergency powers in order to expand and expedite the State's response to the serious health and safety risks of the highly contagious COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, between March 18th and April 29th I issued FY 19/20 Executive Orders 14 (Gatherings, Restaurants and Bars), 19 (Essential Businesses), 28 (Stay at Home), 34 (Travel into Maine) and 49 (Extending those Orders while Restarting) that, for the reasons and upon the authorities stated therein, imposed until May 31st certain emergency rules and limitations necessary to respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2020 I announced the implementation of the Together We Are Maine: Restarting Maine's Economy Plan (Restarting Plan), as the deliberative process to safely ease and lift prior restrictions on businesses and activities starting on May 1st, with successive phased-in actions to follow based on progress in limiting the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in implementing the Restarting Plan it has become necessary to phase out, align and continue certain prior Executive Orders governing such businesses and activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, pursuant to 37-B M.R.S. Ch. 13, including but not limited to the authorities cited in the Proclamations and Orders referenced above, do hereby Order as follows:

I. ORDERS

This section updates the application of certain prior FY 19/20 Executive Orders, as issued, amended and extended, governing the following businesses and activities addressed therein.
A. GATHERINGS

Effective June 1, 2020, and unless or until otherwise advised by guidance from the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the restriction set forth in Executive Order 14 §1(A) on gatherings shall increase from 10 to 50 persons.

B. EATING ESTABLISHMENTS AND BARS

The restrictions on eating establishments and bars set forth in Executive Order 14 §1(B) shall continue to be eased consistent with the implementation of the Restarting Plan as advised by DHHS and CDC. The restrictions remain in effect upon those businesses not yet authorized to open until they are authorized under the Restarting Plan.

C. ESSENTIAL/ NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESS OPERATIONS

The distinction between essential and non-essential businesses set forth in Executive Order 19 shall continue to be phased out consistent with the implementation of the Restarting Plan. Any essential or non-essential business not authorized by Executive Order 19 or the Restarting Plan to be open shall continue to comply with pertinent provisions of Executive Order 19 until so authorized. Any business authorized now to be open shall comply with the pertinent COVID-19 Prevention Checklist or other State of Maine Guidance.

D. WORK FROM HOME

Until further notice, all businesses and operations shall to the extent practicable continue to have their employees work remotely consistent with Executive Order 19 §II(B). If a business or operation determines that remote work is not or is no longer practicable, such business or operation shall comply at the worksite with the pertinent COVID-19 Prevention Checklist or other State of Maine Guidance.

E. STAY SAFER AT HOME

The directives in Executive Order 28 §I(A) and Executive Order 49 §III that people “Stay Safer at Home” unless engaging in a service or activity authorized by Executive Order 19 or Executive Order 28 are eased to the extent that people may access the increased business and personal activities that are being reopened. Until further notice, persons who are over age 60 or who have a medically compromised condition are strongly urged to limit their movement and activities that expose them to persons other than immediate household members, and to avoid large gatherings, especially those occurring indoors or in otherwise confined settings.
F. VEHICLE TRAVEL

Until further notice, and in lieu of the restrictions set forth in Executive Order 28 §II, no one shall use public transportation unless necessary for an essential purpose; persons traveling in private vehicles shall limit passengers to their immediate household members; and commercial transportation must adhere to the pertinent COVID-19 Prevention Checklist.

G. LODGING AND TRAVELERS INTO MAINE

The closure of lodging set forth in Executive Order 34 §I(5) shall be eased consistent with the implementation of the Restarting Plan as advised by DHHS and CDC. The other interstate travel-related measures set forth in Executive Order 34 remain under review and remain in effect until further notice.

II. CLOTH FACE COVERINGS

In addition to the provisions set forth in Executive Order 49 §V, cloth face coverings shall be worn at large gatherings, including those held outside. Each place of business accessible to the public shall, as soon as reasonably practicable and not later than June 5, 2020, post readily visible signs notifying customers of the requirement to wear cloth face coverings in that setting. Such businesses may deny entry or service to a person who is not wearing a covering and is not otherwise exempt from the requirement to do so.

II. INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENT

This Order is subject to interpretative guidance.

III. ENFORCEMENT

This Order is subject to all available methods of enforcement including, but not limited to, those identified in Executive Orders 14, 19, 28 and 34 FY 19/20.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order takes effect May 31, 2020 and shall remain in effect until rescinded.

Janet T. Mills
Governor