

RESOLUTION NO. 20-04

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
RIDGWAY, COLORADO, STRONGLY ADVISING THE USE OF
MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
IN THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY**

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado and the Town of Ridgway (“Ridgway”) are working to stop the spread of coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 a “public health emergency of international concern” and on March 11, 2020 declared it a global pandemic. On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared the virus a public health emergency and on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States issued a Proclamation that the “COVID-19 outbreak constitutes a national emergency;” and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Colorado issued a state-wide Stay at Home Order, Executive Order D 2020 017 on March 25, 2020 and the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (“CDPHE”) issued Amended Public Health Order 20-24 (followed by an Updated Public Health Order 20-24 on March 26, 2020, Third Updated Public Health Order 20-24 on April 1, 2020, and Fourth Updated Public Health Order 20-24 on April 9, 2020) implementing stay at home requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Colorado issued a state-wide Safer at Home Order, Executive Order D 2020 044 on April 26, 2020 and the CDPHE issued Public Health Order 20-28 on April 27, 2020 (followed by Amended Public Health Order 20-28 on May 4, 2020) implementing safer at home requirements for all Colorado residents; and

WHEREAS, the primary mode of transmission of the highly infectious COVID-19 disease is through respiratory droplets produced by an infected person or by touching surfaces infected with the droplets; and

WHEREAS, studies show that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and even those who eventually develop symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms; and

WHEREAS, masks or face coverings reduce the spread of the virus when in close proximity to other people caused by things like coughing, sneezing and speaking; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Colorado issued Executive Order D2020 039 on April 17, 2020 (followed by Executive Order D2020 067 on May, 16, 2020), and the CDPHE issued Public

Health Order 20-26 on April 22, 2020, mandating the use of face coverings by “all employees of critical businesses or those who are performing critical government functions in close proximity to other employees or with the public;” and

WHEREAS, as of May 19, 2020, the CDPHE has confirmed 22,482 cases of COVID-19 and 1,257 deaths within the State of Colorado and seven cases and one death in Ouray County; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of immunization or specific treatment, the Town Council has determined that staying home as much as possible, practicing social, distancing, washing your hands often AND wearing a mask or face covering in a public place are the best tools currently available to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 31-15-401(1)(b) the Town has the power and the authority to do all acts and make regulations which may be necessary or expedient for the promotion of health or suppression of disease; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds and determines that the adoption of this Resolution is necessary for the promotion of health and the suppression of disease.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado:

Section 1. Definitions.

“Mask or Face Covering” means a uniform piece of material that securely covers a person’s nose and mouth and remains affixed in place without the use of one’s hands.

“Public building” means any and all places of public accommodation, shopping, grocery business, retail food establishments and buildings.

“Public place” means any and all streets, sidewalks, trails and any and all public parks, squares, spaces, and building grounds.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this Resolution is to encourage the wearing of Face Coverings by citizens of the Town and the public in an effort to combat the spread of COVID-19. The Town Council has concluded that the wearing of Masks or Face Coverings by members of the public is part of a comprehensive approach to preventing the spread of COVID-19 that includes physical distancing, personal hygiene, and testing and containing positive cases.

Section 3. Findings. The Town Council strongly advises the use of Masks or Face Coverings by members of the public 1) while in public buildings, and 2) while in public places, either indoors or outdoors, if proper physical distancing (six or more feet of separation) cannot be assured.

Section 4. Town Businesses. The Town Council fully supports businesses within the Town of Ridgway who require their customers to wear a Mask or Face Covering as a measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Section 5. Exemptions. The Town Council recognizes the exemption for wearing Masks or Face Coverings for the following persons:

- i. Persons under the age of two;
- ii. Persons for whom Masks or Face Coverings would cause impairment due to an existing health condition

Section 6. Protections for Health Care Workers. The public is discouraged from attempting to acquire health care and industrial Masks or Face Coverings that are necessary to protect health care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 27th day of May, 2020.

ATTEST:

Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

John Clark, Mayor