

# City of Connersville Indiana

MAYOR

**Chad A. Frank**

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Executive Assistant

**Diana Wright**

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Press Release

July 24, 2020

By now I am sure everyone has heard the mask mandate issued by Governor Eric Holcomb. Here is an outline of his order:

- Applies to anyone 8 or older in indoor public spaces, commercial entities or transportation services, or outside public spaces when people cannot socially distance.
- Mask use in schools required for Grade 3 and higher for faculty and staff, volunteers and anyone in schools. Masks also will be required for co-curricular and extracurricular activities, with exceptions for strenuous physical activity.
- Exceptions will be made for medical purposes, strenuous physical activity, eating, and drinking.
- Masks are strongly recommended for ages 2-7.

This epidemic we are facing has caused many lines to be crossed and freedoms to be given up rather quickly. My office continually evaluates protecting one's constitutional rights along with stopping the spread of this virus. It is an arduous position faced with daily, to make the right decision of what is best and constitutional.

I believe it is your choice to wear a mask or not and government should not be the dictator of that. If a private business wants you to wear a mask, then do so or shop somewhere else. As for City properties we will comply with the Order. City employees will wear a mask indoors and outdoors when they cannot socially distance. Police will wear a mask when they cannot socially distance and when they are dealing with an issue so that there is no confusion over what is being said. Fire and EMS will wear a mask on medical runs and when they cannot socially distance. When visitors come to City Hall temperatures are already checked and we are constantly sanitizing, but now visitors will be asked to wear a mask.

Please do not call 911, dispatch, or my office for those who are not complying with the order as we will not be enforcing or arresting anyone not complying.

My view as a Christian on this is, we are asked to "obey those who have rule over us" if that rule does not violate scripture. We are also to love and concern towards one another while having compassion for them. So, wearing a mask does not violate scripture and me showing Christ love to others by wearing a mask is simple. Do I like it, no. Do I agree with the way the Governor is handling it, no. Will I do it, yes.

Please, treat one another courteously with their choice and beliefs whether to comply or not. We are living in unprecedented high emotion times where both

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sides are passionate about their beliefs and vocally bash the other side rather than work together to find a solution. My hope is we as a City will set the example in working together for a solution that will help end this epidemic while still showing love and compassion for one another.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad A. Frank", is written over a large, faint, circular watermark or ghost signature.

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