



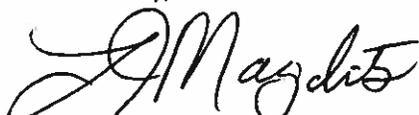
Dear Business Partner:

On Monday, November 23rd the Rolla City Council passed Ordinance No. 4591 – a facial covering mandate for all citizens, customers and patrons in “public accommodations” located within the City limits. The Ordinance takes effect at 6 a.m. on Friday, November 27th and will run through February 2nd unless modified. This Ordinance was passed, following a long public hearing, in response to appeals for community help by the Phelps County Health Department and Phelps Health.

“Public Accommodations” are defined as a “Business or other facility, both public and private, open to and used by the public” (i.e. retail stores, service establishments, associated waiting areas, social clubs, and sporting events). Facial coverings are required of employees, customers, patrons or visitors over the age of 11 unless there is a specific exception (i.e. medical condition). The Ordinance reinforces CDC guidelines on safe distancing (6’ minimum), frequent hand-washing and sanitizing. The Ordinance does not prohibit any business or activity nor does the Ordinance impose specific occupancy limits on most businesses and facilities. However, the Ordinance does identify “Enhanced Risk Activities” such as live performances, dances, gyms and fitness classes, conferences, bars/restaurant bars, public and private events, and religious services. Occupancy limits of 25% are generally imposed on those activities deemed “enhanced risk”. Such events and activities are certainly important and can be continued with additional safeguards.

Enforcement is always an issue with respect to any law or order yet education and the spirit of cooperation is essential. We look to the businesses as our partners in helping to ensure employee and customer health and compliance, but ultimate enforcement is up to the City. Placement of proper signage, hand-washing stations, complimentary facial coverings, customer service, employee compliance, safe spacing markings are all feasible and reasonable efforts by the business community. Ensuring same will hopefully reduce the rapid transmission of COVID-19 and reduce the pressures imposed on our health professionals. Thank you for all of your efforts and together we will get through this pandemic.

Sincerely,



Louis J Magdits, IV Mayor