

ORDINANCE NO. 2021- 5

AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING VARIOUS RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND MITIGATING THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

WHEREAS, since its inception in late 2019, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID 19”), has spread to every country and territory in the world, infecting nearly 130 million individuals, over 31 million of whom are Americans, and contributed to the death of over 2.8 million souls, including over 500,000 Americans; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to measures enacted by the federal government and locales around the United States and throughout the World, Governor Eric J. Holcomb has issued a series of Executive Orders instituting certain restrictions and other directives aimed at mitigating the spread of the virus and protecting public health; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County, Indiana (“Commissioners”), as the executive body of Morgan County, Indiana, has also adopted various measures in response to the virus that have included restricting access to County offices; limitations on in-person attendance at public meetings; requiring certain safety measures as mandated by the Governor and recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC); and various other policies that contemplate public health as well as the importance of the continuity of operations; and,

WHEREAS, the Commissioners continue to urge citizens to follow safety directives issued by the CDC, comply with Orders from the Governor, be aware of these and other information as it evolves, and to simply use good judgment in social settings in order to stay safe and continue to mitigate the effect of the virus until such time as it is eradicated, or its effect dissipated such that health officials confirm precautions are no longer needed; and,

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the need for continued vigilance, the Commissioners are also mindful of the fact that some restrictions imposed by the Governor will soon be vacated, that other states and locales are taking similar actions to life restrictions, that nearly 1 million Hoosiers have been vaccinated, and there is reasonable hope and belief that the worst portions of the pandemic may be over; and,

WHEREAS, for those reasons, the Commissioners believe it is appropriate to modify some of various restrictions they have enacted in response to COVID-19.

THEREFORE, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County as follows:

Sec. 1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Exercise Caution at all Times.** All citizens should continue to adhere to CDC guidance and the measures outlined in this directive to take responsibility for their safety and the health and safety of those around them. This includes following CDC guidelines for individuals who have been fully vaccinated.
- B. Self-Quarantine When Warranted.** All citizens are strongly encouraged to obtain a COVID-19 test and self-quarantine if they or a household member becomes symptomatic or have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. All citizens who have received a positive COVID-19 test shall self-quarantine and are strongly encouraged to cooperate with contact tracers.
- C. High Risk and Vulnerable Individuals.** Individuals at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including those 65 and above and those who are sick or have underlying medical issues, are urged to remain vigilant about protecting themselves from exposure to COVID-19. Hoosiers who will be in contact with individuals 65 and older and those with known high-risk medical conditions should suspend in-person visits if symptomatic or if they have received a positive COVID-19 test. When in contact with individuals 65 and older and those with known high-risk medical conditions it is also recommended that CDC guidelines be followed and a face covering be worn at all times, whether inside or outside, and regardless of whether six (6) or more feet of distance can be achieved.
- D. Social Distancing & Increased Sanitation.** All citizens should engage in social distancing with all other individuals unless they are all members of a single household. The phrase "social distancing" means maintaining at least six (6) feet of distance from other individuals or, in the event six (6) feet of distance is not possible, use of a barrier to separate individuals or members of a single household from others. Increased sanitation is also strongly recommended and includes washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.
- E. Face Coverings.** Face coverings are masks or shields that cover the mouth and nose of an individual in an attempt to reduce the spread of the virus.

Sec. 2. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND DIRECTIVES

- A. Face Coverings.** All individuals accessing County offices, or attending meetings at County offices, or meetings conducted by County officials continue to be strongly encouraged to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when doing so. While this is advised and recommended, as with the other provisions of Section 1 above, the County will not employ any enforcement of the same at this time.
- B. Social Distancing.** All individuals shall continue to engage in the practice of social distancing by maintaining a distance of six (6) feet apart from other individuals that are not members of the same household, when practicable, and when accessing County offices or attending meetings at County offices or conducted by County officials.
- C. Refusal of Service.** If a citizen appears at a County office to transact business, and during the course of doing so, it becomes known to a County employee or agent, that the person is positive for COVID-19, the person may be positive for COVID-19, the person visibly demonstrates symptom(s) consistent with COVID-19, or the person may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive to COVID-19 in the preceding ten (10) days, the County employee or agent, or department head or supervisor of the relevant County office or agency, may ask the person to leave the premises and return at a future date to conduct their business, at such time as they are feeling healthy and CDC guidelines would recommend no restriction on their interaction with others. County employees and officials shall exercise reasonable care and good judgment in making such determinations; the means by which any of these circumstances may be discovered includes, but is not limited to the person's statement or admission, the person's behavior, the person's visibly demonstrating symptoms, and/or the person refusing to confirm or deny a current positive status for COVID-19.
- D. COVID-Response Plans.** In compliance with Executive Order 21-09, issued by Governor Holcomb on March 31, 2021, all department and agency heads shall work with their employees to develop and implement measures and institute safeguards to ensure a safe environment for employees, customers, clients, and members. The plan must be provided to each employee or staff and posted publicly and must include, at a minimum: 1. Instituting an employee health screening process; 2. Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols for the workplace; 3. Enhanced access to hand washing or hand sanitizer or other personal hygiene measures for all employees, customers, and clients.
- E. County Employees.** County employees are encouraged to stay home from work if they have a fever, demonstrating other symptoms commonly associated with COVID-19, and/or have reasonable belief that they, or someone in their household, have been infected with COVID-19. Notwithstanding the recommendations and measures outlined herein that are promulgated with the best

interests of the health and safety of employees and the public in mind, all County employees should report to work at their assigned location as normal in order to proceed with the regular transaction of business during normal business hours.

- F. Access to County Offices and Meetings.** Restricted public access to County offices, restricted public access to public meetings, and restrictions on non-public meetings have all already been vacated by oral motion, adopted by the unanimous consent of the Board of Commissioners. Notwithstanding the recommendations and measures outlined herein that are promulgated with the best interests of the health and safety of employees and the public in mind, all County offices and facilities are conducting business as normal and are open to the public during normal business hours.

Sec. 3. COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND PAID TIME OFF (PTO) AND OTHER LEAVE TIME

- A.** The provisions of the prior Ordinance adopted by the Board of Commissioners concerning COVID-19 and paid time off (PTO) and other leave time shall remain in effect at this time.
- B.** Employees should be reporting in-person to their normal office or place of work within County government and should no longer be telecommuting; except and unless unique circumstances warrant an exception to standard policy by permitting such telecommuting, and the employee has the approval of the department head responsible for that employee, and said telecommunicating be limited in duration.

Sec. 4. CONFLICTING LEGISLATION

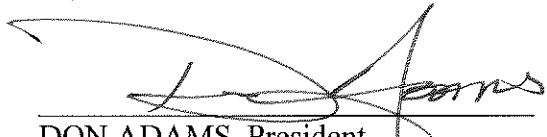
- A.** The terms of this Ordinance shall supersede and cause to be vacated, any prior Ordinance, Resolution, or other measure adopted by the Commissioners that contradicts the language herein.
- B.** If the federal or state government enacts measures that are more restrictive than the language herein, the federal or state government action shall control and be in effect.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

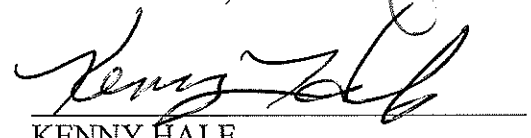
- A.** This Ordinance and provisions contained herein shall be in full force and effect upon passage and execution by the Morgan County Board of Commissioners, this 5th day of April, 2021.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, ALL OF WHICH IS AGREED, ADOPTED, and
SO APPROVED this 5th day of April, 2021.

**MORGAN COUNTY, INDIANA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



DON ADAMS, President



KENNY HALE



BRYAN COLLIER

ATTEST: 
DAN BASTIN
Morgan County Auditor