



LA PORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Sandra Deausy, M.D., Health Officer

Amanda Lahners, REHS/RS, Administrator

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For Immediate Release

April 1, 2021

Dr. Sandra Deausy, La Porte County Health Officer, has renewed the mask mandate for La Porte County for the month of April. This current health order will be reviewed at the end of the month. Please see the attached Second Amended Health Order for specifics.

Mission Statement:

"To engage and partner in a collaborative and responsive effort with the community and local organizations with respect to the diversity of the community to better serve present and future generations."



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SECOND AMENDED HEALTH ORDER

La Porte County Health Officer's second amended health order extending county mask mandate and other health protections through April 30, 2021.

WHEREAS, across the State of Indiana and La Porte County, cases of COVID-19 is having a direct impact on the health and safety of La Porte residents,

WHEREAS, La Porte County now has a positivity rate of 6.49 %, placing this county among the YELLOW category of counties, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the laws of the State of Indiana, I have the authority under I.C. 16-20-1-24 to "forbid public gatherings when considered necessary to prevent and stop epidemics," and I.C. 16-20-1-25 also allows me to "abate" any condition that may "transmit, generate or promote disease" and,

WHEREAS, I have consulted with a range of local elected officials including our county commissioners and the Mayors of both the City of La Porte and City of Michigan City,

WHEREAS, the Governor has given discretion to local health departments to take action as necessary to address this pandemic,

NOW THEREFORE PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF INDIANA, I HEREBY DECREE AND ORDER THE FOLLOWING

1. **Face Covering Mandate.** Every individual must properly wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when they are at:
 - a. An indoor area open to the public, including public transportation;
 - b. An outdoor public area where distance of 6 feet from individuals outside of their household cannot be maintainedAn adult should supervise use of face coverings by children aged 3 to 12 years of age to avoid misuse. A properly worn face covering is one that fully covers the individual's mouth and nose, fits snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps, is secured (i.e. straps, ear loops) to prevent slipping, and allows for breathing with no restriction.
2. **Social Gatherings.** Consistent with the Governor's color-coded metrics, counties designated as Yellow, social gatherings and events are limited to a total of 100 persons (including staff). Social gatherings and events shall not exceed 50% of a facilities capacity.
3. **Capacities.**
 - a. Indoor and outdoor capacity for bars restaurants and entertainment venues are to be governed by CDC social distancing guidelines. Tables are to be placed a minimum of 6 feet apart, including booth tables.

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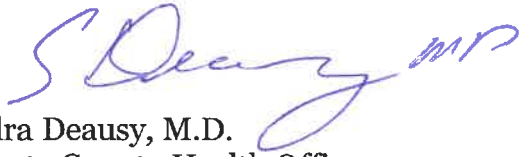
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- b. Gyms and fitness studios, including locker rooms are subject to strict adherence to social distancing requirements. (equipment placed 6 feet apart)
 - c. Libraries, funeral homes, swimming pools are also subject to strict adherence to social distancing requirements.
4. Business and Employer Requirements. Every Business and employer in La Porte County must take the following steps to ensure that all employees and visitors of the entity comply with this order:
 - a. All employers in La Porte County must amend their COVID-10 confined operations plan, to require all employees and visitors to wear face coverings in accordance with this Order.
 - b. All businesses must continue to maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet) and sanitation requirements.
5. Intent and Use of this Order. The Intent of this order is to mandate all people in La Porte County, whether engaged in work activities, social activities, or everyday activities, wear a face covering, as outlined herein, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This Order is necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 throughout La Porte County and protect public health. When applying this order, it is important to remember the following:
 - a. Nothing in this Order reduces or eliminates the requirements imposed by the Executive Orders of Governor Holcomb or imposed by any directive or order from the Governor or other regulatory local, state, or federal agency.
 - b. Actions that contradict this Order do not create grounds for residents or law enforcement to stop, detain, issue citation, arrest, intimidate, or harass individuals that do not comply with this Order. This Order should be used to educate, encourage, and persuade individuals to wear face coverings.
6. Additional Necessary Protective Measures. Use of a face covering as mandated by this order does not replace the need for all La Porte County employers, residents, and visitors to take additional necessary protective measures to protect against the spread of COVID-19. To keep La Porte County working, activities open, and ourselves healthy, everyone should maintain the following basic protective measures:
 - a. Wash hands frequently during the day for 20 seconds with soap and water. If this is not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
 - b. Maintain a minimum 6-foot distance between yourself and individuals outside of your household.
 - c. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - d. Stay home and isolate yourself, from other members if your household if you are sick.
 - e. Avoid being around sick people.
 - f. Clean frequently touched surfaces often.
 - g. Sneeze and cough into the inside of your elbow or a tissue.
7. Exemptions to the face covering mandate. The La Porte County Health Department strongly encourages those that are unable to wear a face covering to alternatively wear a face shield. For a full list of exemptions to wearing face coverings, please see State of Indiana Executive Order 21-06, section 3-f.

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ALL OF WHICH IS ORDERED THIS 1st DAY OF April, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S Deausy M.D.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sandra Deausy, M.D.
La Porte County Health Officer

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