

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-04

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA, TEXAS
REQUIRING THE USE OF FACE MASKS OR COVERINGS IN
PUBLIC SPACES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC;
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR
PUBLICATION.**

=====

WHEREAS, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has now been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas, and has since issued Executive Orders mandating certain obligations for Texans in accordance with the recommendations of the CDC to help prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness, and cause further complications--including death; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020, the CDC has urged and recommended the use of cloth face coverings as an additional preventive measure to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, as reflected on their website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html and

WHEREAS, the City of La Feria, Texas, is authorized by Sec. 122.006 of the Texas Health and Safety Code to adopt rules to protect the health of people in the City, including quarantine rules to protect the residents against communicable disease; and

WHEREAS, given this statutory authority, the City deems it necessary and urgent to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in order to help protect the public health and welfare of the City of La Feria consistent with CDC Guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA, TEXAS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: That all persons within the city limits of the City of La Feria, Texas shall wear face masks or appropriate face covering at all times while in a public or in a commercial setting:

- A. For purposes of this Ordinance, a public or commercial setting includes, but is not limited to, public buildings and any commercial spaces that remain open for commerce with the public.
- B. A public or commercial setting does not include any setting outside of an individual's home, residence, rental unit, lodging, or personal vehicle.
- C. Face masks and coverings may consist of scarves, bandanas, or other facial coverings fashioned from cloth and fabric items as recommended by the CDC. For more detailed information see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>. Face coverings are not required to be surgical masks, N95 respirators, or other specialized coverings.
- D. This Ordinance does not replace, modify, or withdraw other health and safety measures, ordinances, or orders requiring other preventative measures, such as sheltering in place and social distancing, as has been mandated by the Mayor, County Judge, or Governor, but is an additional measure to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- E. A violation of this ordinance is an offense punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500, pursuant to Sec. 1.01.009 of the City of La Feria Code of Ordinances.

SECTION TWO:

- A. That this Ordinance shall continue in effect until May 4, 2020, unless continued by action of the City Commission for the City of La Feria, Texas.
- B. That the effective date of this Ordinance shall be upon its approval by the City Commission.
- C. That the City Secretary of the City of La Feria shall provide for a caption of this Ordinance to be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON FIRST READING BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LA FERIA, TEXAS, on this the 14th day of April, 2020

CITY OF LA FERIA, TEXAS



Olga Maldonado, Mayor

ATTEST:



Amanda Morales, City Secretary