**REQUIREMENTS**

• All persons present in unincorporated Newton County, who are over the age of 8 years old, “are required to utilize a face covering or mask when in any public place, except as exempted herein.”

“Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the use of medical or industrial face coverings, shields, or other forms of personal protective equipment which offer more protection that the face coverings otherwise required by this section.”

**EXEMPTIONS**

No face coverings shall be required:

• When social distancing is both possible and being actively practiced (social distancing is defined as “maintaining a distance of at least six feet from any other person who is not a member of the same household, such as cohabitating persons, family units, or roommates residing together in private homes”);

• In personal vehicles;

• On residential property;

• On private property where the owner or legal occupant of the property does not consent to enforcement of this Ordinance (there shall be a presumption of “consent to enforcement” unless the owner/occupant affirmatively indicates otherwise);

• If a medical provider has advised against the use of a face covering due to an underlying medical issue or because wearing such covering presents a health, safety or security risk;

• To the extent temporary removal of a covering is necessary for the purpose of verifying a person’s identity for the purposes of law enforcement, purchasing alcohol, tobacco, or prescription drugs;

• If a person is employed and working in their capacity as a governmental professional (i.e. public safety, fire, sanitation), or medical professional and is wearing more protective equipment or is otherwise prohibited from utilizing a face covering by the policy of their employer;

• If an employer consults with an occupational safety and health professional who determines in writing that face coverings are not appropriate for employees, because of heat or other health related or safety concerns;

• If wearing a mask poses a greater mental or physical health safety or swecurity risk such as when a person has trouble breathing , is unconscious, is incapacitated, or is unable to remove or put on the face covering without assistance;

• If an individual has a boa fide conscientious objection to the wearing of a face covering based upon health, ethical, or religious reasons; or

• At any polling place, as defined under (state law), and no individual shall be denied ingress or egress to or from a polling place for failure to wear a face covering or face mask.

**EXEMPTIONS FOR CHILDREN, CHILDCARE ESTABLISHMENTS AND SCHOOLS**

• Parents or guardians of children 8 years or younger may exercise their own discretion regarding the wearing of mask by such children.

• All schools, daycares and other child care establishments should develop face covering policies and procedures based on guidance from public health authorities, the state department of education and the local board of education. These policies should weigh the risks and benefits of masks to children, teachers and other employees of such establishments. Parents and guardians should be notified of such policies and procedures. Where the consistent use of face coverings or masks is not possible due to supervision of multiple children, the facility shall adhere to sanitary, hygienic and face covering practices to the maximum extent possible.

*(Source: Newton County Board of Commissioners)*