



E. "BEN" ZAHN III
MAYOR

CITY OF KENNER

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2020

Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn Issues Emergency Mask Proclamation; Unveils Mask-Up Social Media Campaign to Encourage Compliance

Kenner, LA. – Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn has issued an emergency proclamation requiring anyone entering a commercial or public building in the city to wear a protective mask. The proclamation goes into effect at noon today (July 2).

At the same time, Mayor Zahn and the Kenner City Council launched a social media campaign, "Mask Up Kenner", to encourage all residents and visitors to wear masks whenever they are with anyone other than immediate family members outside the home.

"The COVID cases in Kenner are by far the worst both in the total number of cases as well as the per capita rate for municipalities in Jefferson Parish," Mayor Zahn said. "In fact, Kenner is only 200 cases behind all of unincorporated Metairie, which has double the population of our city. Requiring masks is the right thing to do."

Mayor Zahn said the Mask Up Kenner social media campaign "is a way to emphasize the importance of wearing masks, and we want to thank some very well-known people who are Kenner Proud, share our concern for the health of all residents and agreed to be a part of the campaign."

The emergency proclamation includes the following exemptions:

- Children under the age of 2
- Anyone with a medical condition, mental health condition or disability that limits their ability to wear a mask

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- People who are hearing impaired or communicating with someone who is hearing impaired
- Anyone who would face a work-related risk (see proclamation for additional information) by wearing a mask on the job
- Anyone obtaining a service involving the nose or face that would require the temporary removal of the mask

Mayor Zahn said health experts at the local, state and national levels have made it clear the Coronavirus is more likely to spread through close contact indoors, particularly with large gatherings in which people don't practice social distancing or wear a mask or face covering.

“Wearing a mask not only protects your health, but also protects those you come in contact with,” Mayor Zahn said.

While face masks must be worn whenever entering a business offering food or beverage service, the mask is not a requirement while eating or drinking, as long as social distancing guidelines are being met. Masks are also required when riding on public transit.

Masks must be worn when entering a gym, fitness center or other recreational facility. However, a mask is not required while working out – again, as long as social distancing requirements are met.

Anyone who witnesses a violation of the emergency mask proclamation in Kenner can contact the Louisiana Fire Marshal's office at 1-800-256-5452. Officials with the Fire Marshal's office will then determine whether to investigate the complaint and will contact the local Kenner Fire Department for that investigation.

“I have faith in the residents of our city,” Mayor Zahn said. “And I am confident this proclamation, together with the social media campaign, will help us to turn around the rising COVID-19 numbers so that we can all begin to move forward again safely.”

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