

NEWS RELEASE
(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)
July 17, 2020

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Davis County reinforces importance of wearing face coverings (masks) to slow the spread of COVID-19

DAVIS COUNTY, UTAH – Due to the continued increase of COVID-19 cases in Davis County; and at the request of many elected officials in the county, the Davis County Commission, along with the Davis County Health Department, have come together to emphasize the importance of face coverings (masks) in Davis County.

This afternoon, a Public Health Directive was issued to encourage adoption of protections designed to limit the spread of COVID-19. The Directive is effective tonight (11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 17) and will be in place through Friday, August 21, 2020.

The Directive:

1. Urges individuals, businesses, and community organizations to comply with the current requirements in the Phased Guidelines for the General Public and Businesses to Maximize Public Health and Economic Reactivation. This includes wearing face coverings, physical distancing, cleaning and sanitizing, following strict hygiene standards, and protecting high-risk individuals. (<https://coronavirus.utah.gov/utah-leads-together/>)
2. Urges **ALL** businesses and organizations to take the ‘Stay Safe to Stay Open’ pledge. Businesses agree to practice seven safe habits as outlined in the ‘Utah Leads Together’ plan. As of Thursday, July 16, 2020, 551 Davis County businesses have taken the pledge. Businesses can complete the pledge at stayopenutah.com.
3. Urges individuals to wear a face covering when they are unable to maintain a six foot distance from those not in the same household and when in public and group settings. **Note:** Face coverings do not need to be worn by: children under the age of 2 years old; anyone who has a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. ([cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html))
4. Urges businesses and organizations to implement policies requiring face coverings for employees and patrons.

“As the local public health agency, the public’s health and well-being is our top priority,” said Brian Hatch, Executive Director of the Davis County Health Department. “As the Directive states, this is a critical moment in Davis County that requires us to collectively work together to slow the spread of COVID-19. There is a need for all residents and businesses to accept responsibility and take actions to protect themselves, their families, their community, and high-risk individuals.”

“Once again, all three commissioners are united with a Davis County Directive,” explains Lorene Kamalu, Chair of the Davis County Commission. “We want to keep the economy open! Physical distancing and wearing face coverings is the current standard for COVID-19 prevention. Our public health expert and a policy committee have been meeting weekly since early March. We have discussions with all the mayors and city managers every week to stay informed. Good policy correlates to good data -- specific Davis County data -- and we continue to methodically guide our citizens and businesses through the pandemic. I highly recommend that people follow the Davis County Health Department COVID-19 website and social media to stay informed.”

The purpose of this Directive is to protect health and the economy. The county conducts contact tracing, which has been effective in controlling virus spread. Businesses and residents are urged to comply with this Directive so that when people get sick, virus exposure to others is minimal outside of their own household. Every effort will continue to be made to educate the public about effective measures to slow the spread of coronavirus. Daily updates and more information about COVID-19 can be found at daviscountyutah.gov/coronavirus or <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/>.

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