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### **City of Claremore Approves Resolution Encouraging Use of Face Masks to Halt Spread of COVID-19; Keep Businesses Open**

CLAREMORE, Okla. \_ Officials with the City of Claremore approved a resolution encouraging masks/facial coverings in workplaces, retail stores, businesses, restaurants and bars, fitness centers, places of worship, and healthcare facilities. The City also pledged support to those property owners and businesses requiring masks/facial coverings on their property and confirmed their right to seek assistance from law enforcement in instances where individuals refuse to comply with the standards established by the business owner.

“In addition to protecting citizens, wearing facial coverings is the best way to keep businesses open and support our local economy,” said John Feary, acting Claremore city manager. “Proper masking is an easy and simple way to stop the spread of the virus that has infected more than 250 Claremore citizens. By keeping our community healthy, we are also keeping our businesses healthy by avoiding outbreaks and the possibility of future closures.”

The resolution stated that as of July 19, 2020, there have been 25,265 total cases of COVID-19 in Oklahoma and 258 total cases in Claremore. Officials cited Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Oklahoma State Department of Health recommendations for proper use of masks covering the nose and mouth to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The City is also suggesting that residents maintain social distancing, which means keeping at least a 6-foot minimum distance from other individuals outside of your household when located within all public areas in the City limits of Claremore.

The resolution is not a citywide mandate or ordinance to wear masks, but a recommendation based on best practices for health from leading experts.

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