

RESOLUTION NO. 26-20

**SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH EFFORTS TO MITIGATE DISEASE SPREAD
WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, Russell County is experiencing a surge in positive cases of COVID-19 as evidenced by the 453 positive cases as of November 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a large proportion of those positive cases are residents of Russell, and

WHEREAS, Russell County is experiencing an increase in hospitalizations required as a result of COVID-19 complications, and

WHEREAS, the regional hospitals we rely on for critical care of seriously ill COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients are nearing capacity, and

WHEREAS, local and regional hospitals are experiencing medical staff shortages as a result of illness and quarantine, thereby further reducing available patient capacity; and

WHEREAS, personal protective equipment for health care providers and first responders and testing supplies are increasingly difficult to obtain, and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and local medical professionals recommend mitigation measures to slow the spread of disease, including staying home when you are sick, washing hands frequently and adequately, properly wearing personal protective equipment such as masks or face shields when a distance of at least six (6) feet cannot be maintained between people who are not members of your household (social distancing), and making informed choices and calculated risks when considering travel and gatherings, and

WHEREAS, November and December traditionally result in increased travel and a larger number of indoor gatherings of extended family and friends for the holidays, and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to our local and regional economy that our businesses and schools remain fully operational and supported by patronage by the general public, and

WHEREAS, we continue to fight COVID-19 while entering the traditional cold and flu season, and

WHEREAS, the timeframe for a reliable and available COVID-19 vaccine is unknown, and

WHEREAS, local government has a responsibility to protect its citizens from harm and serve its citizens to benefit the whole community.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
RUSSELL, KANSAS:**

We support Russell County's decision to opt into Governor Kelly's Executive Order 20-52 requiring the use of masks, and we support behavior consistent with the recommendations of public health officials for:

1. Exercising community leadership by supporting public health officials during a public health emergency, and

2. Slowing the spread of COVID-19 and the cold and flu viruses that traditionally increase during the fall and winter, and
3. Maintaining a manageable patient load within our local and regional hospitals, and
4. Keeping our schools and businesses operational through patronage by the general public.

We strongly encourage Russell residents and businesses to do the same.

This Resolution is effective upon passage by the Governing Body and will be published in the official newspaper and on the City's website.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Governing Body of the City of Russell, Kansas on this 20th day of November 2020.

Raymond C. Mader
Mayor

ATTEST:

(Seal)

Katrina Woelk
City Clerk