CITY OF KLAWOCK
PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY ORDER #EO-04 (MASK MANDATE)
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

ISSUED BY THE MAYOR OF CITY OF KLAWOCK ("CITY") PURSUANT TO CITY OF KLAWOCK EMERGENCY ORDINANCE EO2020-04 AND ORDINANCE 1.02.050.

The COVID-19 pandemic has generated a public health emergency, as declared by the State of Alaska and the City of Klawock City Council Emergency Ordinance EO2020-04, that threatens to overwhelm the health system of the entire State of Alaska. Furthermore, the City has limited health resources and we must take decisive steps to slow and contain the threat; such steps require coordinated community action. This Emergency Order #EO-04 is put forward to preserve the health and safety of our community.

At the beginning of this pandemic, not much was known about the transmission of COVID-19, nor the efficacy of cloth masks in preventing its spread. Due to the need to limit medical masks for medical use and the uncertainty about the usefulness of alternatives, early recommendations did not advise face coverings for the general public. But the scientific and medical communities now recommend the use of cloth facing coverings, as recent studies indicate masks can greatly help reduce the spread of the virus. This is because a significant number of individuals with COVID-19 are capable of transmitting the disease to others before (or without) showing any symptoms, through everyday activities such as talking in close quarters. Based on this information, the CDC now recommends wearing cloth face masks coverings in indoor public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. In line with this recommendation, the City puts forth this additional order to preserve the health and safety of the community of Klawock.

PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO ME BY THE CITY COUNCIL UNDER EMERGENCY ORDINANCE EO2020-04 AND CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 1.02.050 (EMERGENCY ORDINANCES), I HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY REGULATIONS TO BE EFFECTIVE AS OF 11:59 P.M. ON JULY 7, 2020, TO PRESERVE LIFE IN AND ADJACENT TO THE CITY. THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY REGULATIONS HAVE THE POWER OF LAW, SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL 11:59 P.M. ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2020, AND SHALL SUPERSEDE ALL CONFLICTING LAWS DURING THE EXISTENCE OF THIS EMERGENCY.

1. All individuals must wear masks or cloth face coverings over their noses and mouths when they are indoor in public settings or communal spaces outside the home. This order is subject to the conditions and exceptions stated below.

2. The indoor settings included in this order include, but are not limited to, the public and communal spaces within the following:

    A. Grocery stores, pharmacies, and all other retail stores.

B. Restaurants, cafes, bars, and breweries, including food preparation, carry-out, and delivery operations. There is an exception for customers while they are actively eating or drinking in those settings.

C. Taxis, ride share services, or other forms of public transportation when non-household passengers are present.

D. Personal care facilities, child-care facilities, and communal areas of office where people from multiple households are present.

E. Any other indoor communal space in a public setting.

3. Employers are responsible to make sure employees who are present in the workplace have access to and wear masks or cloth face coverings when in direct contact with customers, members of the public, or other employees. Masks are not required when the only direct contact is between members of the same household or when employees are not within six feet of others. Businesses are permitted to refuse service to any individual not willing to abide by this Order.

4. This Order does not apply to the following categories of people or activities:

A. Any child under the age of 2 years or who may have a risk of suffocation;

B. Any child under the age of 12 years unless a parent or caregiver actively supervises their use;

C. Any child in a day care setting;

D. Any individual for whom wearing a mask or cloth face covering would be contrary to his or her health or safety because a medical condition or medical health condition, and any individual unable to tolerate a mask due to a physical or mental disability;

E. Individuals who are speech impaired, deaf, or hard of hearing, or individuals communication with someone is deaf or hard of hearing;

F. Any individual who has trouble breathing;

G. Individuals who are exercising, if mask wearing would interfere with their breathing;

H. Individuals who are incarcerated, in police custody, or in a courtroom; and

I. Individuals performing an activity that cannot be safely conducted while wearing a mask (i.e., operating heavy equipment with a risk of tangling the mask).

5. If a person declines to wear a mask or face covering because of a medical condition or disability as described above, this Order does not require them to produce medical documentation verifying such.

DATED this 7TH day of July, 2020.

Donald Nickerson Jr., Mayor