

**EMERGENCY ORDER 20-15
IN ALACHUA COUNTY**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDER OF ALACHUA COUNTY REGARDING THE USE BY INDIVIDUALS OF PERSONAL
PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT OR FACE MASKS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis has issued Executive Order 20-51 declaring a public health emergency as the result of the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and,

WHEREAS, as the virus spread Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a general state of emergency in all the counties of the State; and,

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump has declared a National State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 virus; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor and the Department of Health have issued several Orders and Directives regarding public safety and limiting public activities to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the number of suspected and diagnosed cases in the State of Florida and specifically Alachua County continue to climb; and,

WHEREAS, a Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency in Alachua County was issued on March 16th beginning at 1:04 p.m. which has been extended by Orders 20-08, 20-11 and 20-14; and,

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020, the CDC recommended that persons wear masks, including cloth masks or other facial coverings, while in public to help control the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the limitations in wearing masks covering the face found in §876.12, F.S. are limited to only those unlawful behaviors set forth in §876.155, F.S. and the use of face masks to prevent the spread of infection is therefore a lawful use of a facemask; and,

WHEREAS, COVID-19/novel Coronavirus poses a health risk to Alachua County residents, particularly elderly residents and those who are immunosuppressed or otherwise have high-risk medical conditions; and,

ORDER REGARDING THE USE OF PPE
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WHEREAS, at the present, commercially manufactured PPE is not readily available for members of the public and home-made PPE is being made by members of the public and used in the healthcare field because of the lack of commercially manufactured PPE; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Board of County Commission is the Official Authority as prescribed in the County's Code §27.07.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Alachua County Code Section §27.07, the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners sitting as the Official Authority hereby resolves, finds, and declares:

1. The above recitals are true.
2. All persons outside their homes are encouraged to wear a cloth facial covering consistent with the current CDC guidelines, including cloth masks. Persons choosing to use masks are encouraged to review and comply with the CDC and Florida Department of Health guidelines on personal protective equipment. Persons should not utilize N95 rated masks, as those are critical supplies for health care workers, police, fire, emergency management, or other persons engaged in life/safety activities.
3. The provisions of this Order shall serve as minimum standards. Municipalities may impose more stringent standards within their jurisdictions, as permitted by law.
4. This Order does not supersede Emergency Order 20-13 as amended.
5. This Order shall apply within the entirety of the boundaries of Alachua County and shall apply within all municipalities within the county. This Order may be enforced by any municipality within the county within their jurisdiction.
6. This Order shall take effect upon it being signed and filed with the Clerk of the Court.

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Dated this 7th day of April, 2020 at 4:15 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Robert Hutchinson, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


County Attorney's Office