



M E M O

County Administrator

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TO: County Commissioners
FROM: Robert W. Wilson
DATE: December 2, 2021
SUBJECT: Policy Update – Use of Facemasks in County Facilities

At the Commission meeting on December 6th the Board may wish to consider updates to the County's policy regarding the use of facemasks in County facilities as a mitigation effort against the spread of COVID-19. I have attached the draft of a proposed policy update based on a request received by this office.

If approved as drafted the following changes would be implemented:

- 3. "Visitors ~~shall~~ are encouraged to wear the mask...."
- 4. "Employees ~~shall~~ are encouraged to wear masks...."

This draft language has been shared with County department heads and with Fargo Cass Public Health. Feedback from department heads has been positive, although some indicated they may continue to wear masks or evaluate individual situations or interactions with the public on a case-by-case basis.

The public health recommendation is that if other mitigation recommendations are lessened, vaccinations – including boosters – should be encouraged. That language is not currently in the proposed draft but could be added upon Commission direction.

A representative from Fargo Cass Public Health will join the meeting remotely on Monday and be available for questions.

SUGGESTED MOTION: Move to amend the Cass County Facemask Policy as presented.

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Cass County Facemask Policy
Effective ~~September 21, 2021~~ December 7, 2021

Facemasks:

1. Cloth and disposable paper masks are acceptable for limiting the spread of COVID-19
2. Disposable masks will be ~~provided~~ available to all visitors at the entrances to all County buildings including the Courthouse, Annex, Jail, Law Enforcement Center, Highway Department & Emergency Management Offices.
3. Visitors ~~shall~~ are encouraged to wear the mask provided throughout their stay in a County Building. ~~(Unless they indicate they are unable to wear a mask.)~~
4. Employees ~~shall~~ are encouraged to wear masks while in County buildings in the following situations:
 - Anytime they meet with a member of the public indoors.
 - Anytime they are in an indoor space with others in close proximity (masks are not needed in your own office space if no one else is present but are needed when you leave your space going to communal areas.)
5. ~~Employees are strongly encouraged to wear masks while in doors in non-county buildings in the following situations:~~
 - ~~Anytime they meet with a member of the public indoors.~~
 - ~~Anytime they are in an indoor space with others in close proximity~~
6. This policy will remain in place until rescinded or amended.