



**ROBERT A.B. REICHERT**  
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**Macon-Bibb County**

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**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**SETTING EXPECTATIONS FOR PUBLIC RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the COVID-19 disease is a global pandemic, in response to over 118,000 cases present in over 110 countries globally; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency, and pledged the “full power of the federal government” to fight this pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp declared a public health emergency for the purpose of easing restrictions that might otherwise hinder the ability of public health systems to respond appropriately to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 7, 2020, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) reports that there have been over 11.6 Million confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, including over 530,000 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 7, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) reports that there have been over 2.9 Million confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States, with over 130,000 deaths, or approximately one-quarter of all cases and deaths globally, and is nearly double the number of cases present in any other country; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 7, 2020, the Georgia Department of Public Health reports that, in the State of Georgia, there have been over 100,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including nearly 2,900 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, under Article 9, § 2, para. II for the Georgia Constitution, and O.C.G.A. § 36-35-3, as well as under Section 2(c) of the Macon-Bibb County Charter, the Macon-Bibb County government has a general police power to take those actions which are “necessary and proper to promote or protect the safety, health, peace, security, and general welfare of said government and its inhabitants”; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC has issued guidance, available at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus), which advises that there currently is no vaccine for this virus, and that the primary and best way to stay safe and limit the spread of the virus is for all individuals to take proactive measures to avoid getting or spreading the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 29, 2020, Governor Kemp issued Executive Order 06.29.20.02, which “strongly encouraged” “all residents and visitors to the State of Georgia . . . to wear face coverings as practicable while outside their homes or place of residence, except when eating, drinking, or exercising outdoors”; and

**WHEREAS**, the recent increase in COVID-19 cases coupled with other health cases that have to be dealt with have put a strain on our healthcare system; and

**WHEREAS**, our frontline public safety and healthcare employees are unable to adequately social distance from the public as they respond to calls and protect our community; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the recent spike in confirmed cases and the uncertainty of the next few weeks, public schools have delayed the start of the new school year by several weeks, and are waiting to determine how children will attend; and

**WHEREAS**, to protect the health of County employees by providing for social distancing from each other and the public, Macon-Bibb County is implementing alternate work schedules and other protective measures in public buildings, where practical; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that we, as a community, do what we can to protect our health and the health of those around us by working together and taking multiple preventative measures to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the action of each person in Macon-Bibb County is needed to reduce the strain on our healthcare system, allow the schools to make decisions about educating our children, and allow our public services to return to full strength; and

**WHEREAS**, every person in Macon-Bibb County shares the responsibility of protecting our fellow citizens, including our law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, healthcare workers, 911 operators, and more, so that the community can remain healthy and able to take care of any residents who fall ill;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Robert A.B. Reichert, am urging and pleading that the people of Macon-Bibb County, and any that visit our community for work or pleasure, each take upon themselves to uphold the serious and universal responsibility they have to protect our community by following ALL preventative and precautionary measures recommended by the CDC, and ESPECIALLY INCLUDING:

- Wearing a face covering over the nose and mouth as often as possible while in public;
- Monitoring one's personal health daily;
- Learning the symptoms of COVID-19 and getting tested as soon as any symptoms appear or after coming into contact with someone else who has tested positive for COVID-19;
- Washing hands often, always with soap and water, and for at least 20 seconds;
- Avoiding close contact with any people who do not live in one's same residence, meaning staying at least six feet away for others as often as possible;
- Avoiding large gatherings of people;
- Using curbside service where possible for restaurants and retail;
- Covering one's mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing; and
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently contacted surfaces regularly.

**FURTHERMORE**, I, Mayor Robert A.B. Reichert, am urging and pleading that all Macon-Bibb County businesses, industries, offices, workplaces, organizations, and other facilities that operate in direct contact with members of the public, each take upon themselves to take



seriously the heightened risk of COVID-19 exposure that their operations inherently create for our community, and to uphold the serious and increased responsibility they have to protect our community by following ALL preventative and precautionary measures, including any industry-specific guidelines, recommended by Governor Kemp in Executive Order 06.29.20.02, or in any subsequent executive orders regarding COVID-19, and ESPECIALLY INCLUDING:

- Adopting and enforcing a policy requiring all public-facing employees, all employees that must work in close proximity to other people, and all members of the public to wear a face covering as often as practical while on the premises;
- Adopting and enforcing a policy denying service to any member of the public that unreasonably refuses to wear a face covering or that is openly exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19;
- Adopting and enforcing a policy prohibiting employees from attending work if they have a fever or are exhibiting any other symptoms of COVID-19;
- Adopting and enforcing a policy prohibiting employees who have been in close contact with any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 from attending work unless and until they get a negative result on a COVID-19 test;
- Adopting appropriate precautionary measures, including installing vapor-proof barriers at points of personal interaction, practicing frequent and thorough sanitization, and limiting the need to use frequently contacted surfaces however possible;
- Wherever practicable, providing face coverings and hand sanitizer to any customers or employees who do not otherwise have access to such items; and
- Wherever practicable, adopting policies to mitigate the economic damage caused by COVID-19, including by providing or expanding paid sick or personal leave for employees; allowing employees who must stay away from work for an extended period of time because of COVID-19 to return to their jobs when healthy; and working with customers and tenants to allow for some flexibility in the payment of debts and rents where doing so may serve to reduce blight, homelessness, or business closures.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Mayor of Macon-Bibb County, Georgia this 9th day of July, 2020.



By: Robert A. B. Reichert  
ROBERT A.B. REICHERT, Mayor

Attest: Janice S. Ross  
JANICE S. ROSS, Clerk of Commission