

RESOLUTION #20-115
A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE USE OF FACE MASKS

WHEREAS the Governor of Kansas has issued Executive Order 20-52 mandating the use of face masks in all public areas effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 3, 2020; and,

WHEREAS such mandate includes criminal and/or civil penalties for persons who do not wear face masks in public; and,

WHEREAS Kansas law authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to issue orders relating to public health that include provisions that are less stringent than the provisions of an executive order effective statewide issued by the Governor; and,

WHEREAS the board has consulted with the local health officer and following such consultation concerning the implementation of the use of face masks, as mandated in the Governor's executive order, however, the board is not in favor of the mandated mask order because of concerns for compliance, enforcement and civil liberties.

The board has determined that presently the mandated use of face masks in public is not necessary to protect the public health and safety of the county; and,

WHEREAS, while the wearing of masks in public will not be mandated, it is strongly recommended to do so for the following reasons:

- The transmission of the virus from asymptomatic patients is decreased by 80% when wearing a mask.
- If 80% of a population wears a mask, it has the same effect as a complete shutdown of the economy.
- States and communities that have implemented broad mask usage have seen sustained drops in the rates of infection.
- States and communities without broad mask usage have seen increased in infection rates.
- Broad use of masks in public indoor spaces will decrease the likelihood of the business closures due to infections.
- Broad use of masks will increase the likelihood of opening schools and having sports for our children.
- There are no good treatments for the virus and only three primary ways of prevention which are:
 - Hand hygiene
 - Social distancing
 - Mask wearing in public indoor spaces and outdoors when unable to social distance
- Due to the decreased infection rate, broad mask usage would essentially be an economic stimulus by keeping our businesses open and our community healthy.

WHEREAS as of this date there have been five confirmed and two probable cases of coronavirus in Sheridan County;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Sheridan County, Kansas, sitting both as the Board of Commissioners and as the Board of Health of the county, determines that the use of face masks in public is not required in Sheridan County, Kansas.

Adopted on this 2nd day of July, 2020.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS and
BOARD OF HEALTH
SHERIDAN COUNTY, KANSAS