

ORDINANCE NO. 6100 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE STRONGLY ENCOURAGING MASKS OR FACIAL COVERING IN PUBLIC PLACES, AND MANDATING MASKS OR FACIAL COVERING IN CERTAIN PARISH OWNED BUILDINGS, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans and which can spread from person to person;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19 under Section 391 of the Public Health Service Act;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana, following consultation with public health authorities, declared a state of public health emergency on March 11, 2020 and said public health emergency has been in effect continuously since that date; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 disease is spread by microdroplets of saliva and mucus containing viral particles; and

WHEREAS, the best advice of medical and healthcare experts on reducing the spread of the COVID-19 disease is use of face masks or other face coverings and social distancing; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of the disease has significantly increased within the State of Louisiana as the new Delta Variant of the disease spreads; and

WHEREAS, the state-wide average of new cases, hospitalization rates and ventilator usage rates are again trending upward; and

WHEREAS, the rate of infection in Caddo Parish has increased from “moderate” to “high”; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Home Rule Charter provides that, to meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or public safety, the Parish Commission may adopt an emergency ordinance at the meeting at which it is introduced; and

WHEREAS, stopping the upward trend of increased infections, hospitalization, and deaths is critically important for the health and welfare of the residents of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this ordinance as an emergency ordinance is warranted due to the recent increases in new cases and hospitalizations;

WHEREAS, improving the rate of mask wearing is essential to avoiding a return to a stay-home order and the devastating impact that would have on the local economy and property of Caddo Parish residents; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission believes that strongly encouraging the use of masks or appropriate facial coverings in public places, along with vaccinations and measures such as mandating the use of masks in Parish owned buildings, will decrease the number of covid-19 and variant cases

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal emergency session convened, that it strongly encourages its citizens to wear masks or appropriate facial coverings in public places along with getting vaccinated.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Caddo Parish Commission does support mandating the use of masks in Parish owned buildings.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the

application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this emergency ordinance shall be effective for thirty (30) days from the date of adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date