

Proclamation 2020-10

A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORMAN DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND IMPLEMENTING RELATED RESTRICTIONS

- § 1. WHEREAS, Section 2-111 of the Code of the City of Norman, Oklahoma allows the Mayor of the City of Norman to proclaim a civil emergency when a natural disaster, which results in the death or injury of persons to such an extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, exists; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, Section 2-111 of the Code of the City of Norman, Oklahoma empowers the Mayor to impose a number of restrictions or prohibitions in the interest of public safety and welfare, including, but not limited to imposition of curfews, limits of numbers of persons of assembling or gathering in public and private areas of the City, and such other activities as the Mayor reasonably believes should be prohibited to preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, a respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) was first detected in China and has now been detected in 190 locations internationally, including the United States; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and
- § 5. WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and
- § 6. WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared COVID-19 a national emergency and ordered each state to set up emergency operations centers and ordered hospitals to activate their emergency preparedness plans; and
- § 7. WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Governor of Oklahoma first declared an emergency caused by the impending threat of COVID-19 to the people of Oklahoma and the public’s peace, health, and safety; and
- § 8. WHEREAS, previous proclamations were issued by the Mayor of the City of Norman on March 13, 2020, limiting organized gatherings to less than 250 people, on March 16, 2020, restricting organized gatherings to less than 50 people, and closing bars, lounges, gyms and fitness facilities, entertainment venues, including private clubs, commercial amusement facilities, theaters and similar venues, as well as restaurant dining areas, on March 22, 2020, limiting organized gatherings to less than 10 people, and closing beauty parlors, barber shops, nail salons, and health clubs and spas, and encouraging retailers to implement social distancing in stores, on March 30, 2020, amending the previous proclamation related to outdoor activities, and on April 7, 2020, implementing a stay at home order and limiting activities to those deemed essential, all of which were designed



to flatten the projected curve of the COVID-19 diagnoses to preserve medical resources and prevent widespread transmission; and

- § 9. WHEREAS, according to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, the initial peak of COVID-19's impact in Oklahoma, as measured by projected daily deaths, occurred on April 21, 2020; and
- § 10. WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, Governor Stitt announced the creation of the Open Up and Recover Safely Plan, which implements a three-phased approach to open Oklahoma's economy beginning with personal care businesses, like hair salons, barbershops, spas, nail salons and pet groomers, opening on April 24, 2020; and
- § 11. WHEREAS, Proclamation 2020-06, which expired at 11:59p.m. on April 30, 2020, was enacted to flatten the projected curve of COVID-19 diagnoses to ensure care facilities were not overwhelmed with demand for beds, ventilators and PPE; and
- § 12. WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control ("CDC") advises the following steps be implemented to protect yourself and others from COVID-19: older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes should stay home if possible, frequent hand washing, particularly after having been in a public place, avoid touching your face, avoid close contact with people who are sick, put distance between yourself and other people, and cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others; and
- § 13. WHEREAS, after consultation with State and local public health officials, epidemiologists, first responders, and hospital personnel, Proclamation 2020-07 was enacted on April 27, 2020 imposing a phased approach to restoring businesses and activities in Norman, which was amended two times; and
- § 14. WHEREAS, the Healthier At Home Initiative to Re-Boot Norman set forth certain gating criteria that must be met in order to move from one phase of reopening to another, including a downward trajectory of the three-day rolling average of new confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Norman, hospital bed availability in Norman of at least 50, adequate COVID-19 test kits to test symptomatic residents and those who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, and a system for contact tracing has been implemented by the State or County to ensure outbreaks can be readily controlled and limited; and
- § 15. WHEREAS, based on available health data at the time, the gating criteria were met which allowed the full implementation of the phased Healthier at Home Plan on June 12, 2020; and
- § 16. WHEREAS, ordinances imposing face covering requirements and limiting capacity to socially distanced seating at restaurants and bars were adopted to further limit the spread of COVID-19; and

- § 17. WHEREAS, without similar preventative actions being taken statewide, numbers of positive cases across the State continued to increase, putting stress on metro area hospitals, testing capacity, and contact tracing capacity; and
- § 18. WHEREAS, the three-day rolling average of new cases reached its highest point ever on January 24, 2021 of 164 new cases per day in Norman; and
- § 19. WHEREAS, the seven-day rolling average of new cases reached its highest point ever on January 14, 2021 of 121.7 new cases per day in Norman; and
- § 20. WHEREAS, since reaching all-time highs in January, new cases in Norman have trended downward with a three-day rolling average as of March 15, 2021 of 13.7 new cases per day, and a seven-day rolling average as of March 15, 2021 of 14.4 new cases per day; and
- § 21. WHEREAS, effective March 31, 2021, Oklahoma is making vaccinations available to all residents at least 16 years (for the Pfizer vaccine) and older and sufficient vaccines are available for distribution; and
- § 22. WHEREAS, because of new COVID-19 variants being reported across the country, preventative measures are still necessary to ensure the progress made in Norman is maintained; however, due to the much lower three day and seven day rolling average of new cases and improvements to hospital capacity, many of the previously proscribed measures can be modified or relaxed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

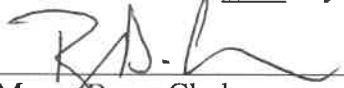
- § 23. That, Proclamation 2020-10 shall be made effective on April 1, 2021; and
- § 24. That, the aforementioned conditions continue to constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and welfare of the city necessitating additional restrictions, and creating a civil emergency situation within the meaning of Section 2-111 of the City Code, in addition to constituting an emergency under the Emergency Management Act of 2003 (63 Okla. Stat. §683.3); and
- § 25. That, the capacity of all restaurants, bars and fitness center facilities, as set by the Fire Department, shall not exceed 75% beginning April 1, 2021, provided such operations are conducted at all times in compliance with the COVID-19 Pandemic Ordinance (Sections 10-1101 et. seq. of the City Code); and
- § 26. That, organized indoor gatherings and organized indoor sporting events shall be permitted as long as such gatherings do not exceed 75% of the event space capacity, as set by the Fire Department, beginning April 1, 2021, provided such gatherings are conducted at all times in compliance with Sections 10-1102 and 10-1103 of the City Code related to face coverings and:

- A. Frequent and visible cleaning of the space, including chair levers, tables, door handles, etc. occurs using cleaners that have been shown to be effective at eliminating or killing COVID-19; and
- B. Alternative floor plans are used to ensure social distancing; and
- C. Any audio-visual equipment is disinfected after each use.

§ 27. That, a violation of this Proclamation constitutes a violation of Section 2-111 of the Code of the City of Norman, which could result in a maximum penalty of \$750 and 60 days in jail per violation. The Norman Police Department is empowered to enforce this ordinance but is encouraged to use an education, warning, then citation approach to enforcement.

§ 28. That, this Proclamation shall be in full force and effect unless and until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing.

APPROVED this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2021.

  
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Mayor Breea Clark

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk

