

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-4

WHEREAS, the City of Hattiesburg has declared an Emergency Declaration in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and in cases of pandemic, leaders must make strategic and operational decisions;

WHEREAS, the City of Hattiesburg has conferred with leaders from Forrest General Hospital, Hattiesburg Clinic and Merit Health Wesley throughout the COVID-19 outbreak; and has received further guidance from the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and Executive Orders 1463 and 1466 from Governor Tate Reeves in regards to essential and nonessential services;

WHEREAS, the CDC points to recent studies where a "significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms ("asymptomatic") and that even those who eventually develop symptoms ("pre-symptomatic") can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms";

WHEREAS, the CDC and the MSDH recommend wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain and in areas of significant community-based transmission;

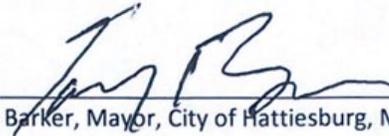
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Toby Barker, Mayor of the City of Hattiesburg, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the State of Mississippi pursuant to *Miss. Code Ann.* Section 33-15-17 (c) (7) and all other applicable statutes, and in an effort to slow the spread of Covid-19 and to make common sense policy and operational decisions to that end, hereby issue the following orders for all businesses - whether essential or nonessential - in the City of Hattiesburg, to be implemented no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2020, and will be enforced until midnight on April 30, 2020, unless extended:

- All employees of essential businesses and all employees of nonessential businesses that are open to maintain minimal operations shall wear a mask when working in or moving about the same workspace as other employees or working in or moving about the same room as the public.
- For purposes of this executive order, "mask" shall be defined as any face covering; including, but not limited to, fabric masks, homemade linen or cloth masks, household dust masks, handkerchief, scarf, surgical mask or N95 mask.
- The above order does not obligate an employer to purchase a certain type of mask.
- The above rule shall not apply to "essential healthcare operations" as defined in Governor Reeves' Executive Order 1463. These operations shall continue with protocols regarding personal protective equipment that adhere to CDC guidelines, medical best practices and institutional policy.
- Nothing in this order shall prevent a business from implementing a more restrictive policy in terms of masks or others measures to contain and prevent transmission of COVID-19.
- All social distancing requirements and limits on gatherings of more than 10 people from previous mayoral Executive Orders 2020-1, 2020-2 and 2020-3 – as well as Governor Reeves' Executive Orders 1463 and 1466 – shall remain in effect.

- This executive order shall be enforced, including penalties for the violation thereof as authorized by statute, by the Hattiesburg Police Department, the Hattiesburg Fire Department, other local enforcement or other city department.

This executive order (EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-4) supersedes and amends Executive Orders 2020-1, 2020-2, and 2020-3.

SO ORDERED on this 8th day of April, 2020.



Toby Barker, Mayor, City of Hattiesburg, Mississippi

ATTEST: 

Kermas Eaton, City Clerk