

JOINT RESOLUTION
of the Rush County, Indiana Commissioners,
the Mayor of Rushville, Indiana, the Rush County Schools,
and the Rush County Health Department

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020 the Governor, Eric Holcomb, issued Executive Order 20-02, declaring a public health emergency in the State of Indiana due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which declaration has been extended by the Governor on seven (7) separate occasions, the most recent of which extends the public health emergency for a thirty (30) day period from October 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Rush County, Indiana Government and the City of Rushville, Indiana continue to closely monitor all developments related to COVID-19 through consultation with local health officials, and, although the COVID-19 transmission rate, and its resulting effects remain fluid, the most current information as relayed by the world, national, state and local health officers warrants that additional joint executive action be taken in order to ensure the health and safety of all Rush County, Indiana residents; and

WHEREAS, Rush County, Indiana and the City of Rushville, Indiana desire to protect the health of all citizens, to slow the rate the of transmission of COVID-19, and avoid any debilitating demands placed on our local healthcare delivery system; and

WHEREAS, a political subdivision may respond to disastrous situations, as defined by the Indiana Code, which includes, but is not limited to, the following: “an occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural phenomenon or human act”, which definition includes an “epidemic” and “public health emergency”; and

WHEREAS, a political subdivision may make, amend, and rescind orders, rules, and regulations as necessary for emergency management, and such orders, rules, and regulations have the full force and effect of law when filed in the office of the clerk of the adopting or promulgating political subdivision or agency of the state if adopted by a political subdivision; and

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana has published a color-coded map measuring community spread of COVID-19 in Indiana by employing certain metrics which are tracked on a continuous basis, and Rush County, Indiana was, until recently, designated as “yellow”, which indicates a “moderate community spread”; however, this designation was elevated to “orange” on October 28, 2020, which indicates a “medium to high community spread”; and

NOW THEREFORE, consistent with the newest recommendations by the Rush County, Indiana Health Department, the Mayor of the City of Rushville, Indiana as the City’s Principle Executive, and the Board of Commissioners of Rush County, as the Executive of Rush County, Indiana, and the Rush County Schools by and through the Rush County School Superintendent RESOLVE that:

1. It is recommended that all residents within the unincorporated areas of Rush County, Indiana, and within the corporate limits of Rushville, Indiana, limit their social gatherings to groups as small as possible, but no more than seventy-five (75) people. This recommendation is based on the continuing rise in the number of COVID-positive cases in Rush County, Indiana. During the week of October 19-23, 2020, the Rush County Schools were near closure due to the number of staff members affected by the Coronavirus, and the inability to fill the positions with qualified substitutes. If the number of COVID-positive cases continue to increase, and the metrics and color-coding implemented by the State of Indiana show a high community spread, these recommendations could lead to restrictions and the shut-down or closure of businesses.
2. Any social gathering of up to seventy-five (75) people may take place so long as CDC social distancing guidelines are followed. It is recommended that other sanitization measures be implemented.
3. All persons within Rush County, Indiana are encouraged to social distance, wear face coverings, practice good hygiene, and to self-check every day.
4. If any person is experiencing any of the following symptoms, they should contact their healthcare provider on what appropriate course of action to take:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion
 - Inability to wake or stay awake
 - Bluish lips or face

Rush Memorial Hospital is offering COVID-19 testing at the walk-in clinic or within their facility.

5. The above provisions shall be applicable to all events where people are in close physical contact for extended periods of time; however, any religious services shall be exempt, but such services shall implement strict social distancing guidelines within the premises at which the services occur.

6. As will the Governor, so too, will the offices of the Mayor, the County Commissioners, the Schools, and the Health Department continue to monitor the spread of the virus in and around Rush County, Indiana. Thus, our respective offices will continue to monitor the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus and we expressly reserve our right and authority, as recognized in the Governor's Executive Orders 20-43 and 20-46, to issue more restrictive directives to which our constituents would be subject. This includes monitoring citizens use of facial coverings, social distancing, and whether the State of Indiana chooses to elevate Rush County to a "red" designation as defined by its color-coded map.

All of which was executed on the 29th day of October, 2020 as is evidenced by the signatures set forth below.

REST OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK. SIGNATURES TO FOLLOW.

Mayor of the City of Rushville, Indiana

By: /s/ Michael P. Pavey
Michael P. Pavey, Mayor

Board of Commissioners of Rush County, Indiana

/s/ Mark Bacon
Mark Bacon

/s/ Paul Wilkinson
Paul Wilkinson

Absent
Bruce W. Levi

Attest:

/s/ Jodi HarrUUU
Jodi Harr,
Rush County Auditor

Rush County Health Department

By: /s/ *Russell Daugherty, M.D.*

Dr. Russel Daugherty, Health Officer

Rush County Schools

By: /s/ Matt Vance
Dr. Matt Vance, Superintendent