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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Summit County Board of Health Passes Mandatory Masking Order

[Akron, OH] –Last night, Summit County Board of Health passed a resolution effective immediately requiring the use of facial coverings/masks in public. Public includes all indoor facilities and outside when 6 feet of social distancing is unable to be maintained. Exceptions to the Board of Health resolution include:

1. When the individual cannot wear a mask because of a medical condition, mental health condition, developmental disability, or as otherwise provided for in CDC guidance.
2. If the individual is under 10 years of age.
3. While eating or drinking, provided that the individual is also seated.
4. In any circumstance where it is not practicable or feasible to wear a mask such as when receiving dental services, medical treatments, or while swimming.
5. While recreating or exercising outside as long as the individual is sufficiently socially distanced from others who are not members of their household based upon CDC guidelines.
6. While exercising in a gym or other similar business as long as the individual is sufficiently socially distanced from others based upon CDC guidelines.
7. When the individual is in their own workspace in an office setting that has sufficient separation from others.
8. When the individual is alone in an enclosed space, such as in an office or vehicle.
9. When the wearing of the mask is not recommended by industry standards or goes against a documented and reasonable safety policy. Those in professions which must communicate visually may wear a face shield instead of a mask and may receive communications in a similar manner.
10. When the wearing of a mask substantially burdens the practice of a sincerely held religious belief.
11. Where state or federal law permits an individual an exception or where the individual would be subject to a bona fide risk to personal health or safety.

Summit County will enforce these orders through complaint-based monitoring. Business are required to enforce the resolution for their employees and customers and if they fail to enforce they are subject to a \$100.00 fine. A resident wishing to make a complaint about a business that is not following the masking orders, not properly socially distancing, or not following





recommended cleaning guidance, is encouraged to contact the Summit County Public Health Covid-19 call line at 330-926-5795 or visit our website at www.scph.org/report.

Under the City of Akron Masking Order, businesses that fail to enforce the requirements of the order within their establishment, after a warning and an opportunity to correct the violation, could face a potential civil penalty of \$250. Individuals who fail to comply with the order, after a warning and an opportunity to correct the violation, could face a potential civil penalty of \$50.

Per the State of Ohio order, facial coverings must be worn in any indoor location that is not a residence; when outdoors and not able to consistently maintain six feet of distance from individuals who are not members of the same household; while waiting for, riding, driving, or operating public transportation, a taxi, private car service or ride sharing vehicle.

If you have questions, call the COVID-19 Call Line (330) 926-5795. The call line is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. M-F. Or visit our website at www.scph.org/covid

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