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For Immediate Release

El Dorado mask ordinance to take effect December 18

(El Dorado, KS December 10): Beginning December 18, 2020, the City of El Dorado will require individuals within the city to wear a mask or face covering as a means of mitigating the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. The ordinance will be in effect until February 1, 2021, unless extended by the El Dorado City Commission.

The ordinance requires masks or face coverings in any public spaces, which includes any indoor or outdoor spaces that are open to the public. The ordinance does not apply to private residential property or private offices or workspaces that are not open to customers or public visitors. The ordinance requires masks must be worn:

- Inside indoor public spaces;
- While standing in line waiting to enter an indoor public space;
- Obtaining services from the healthcare sector;
- Waiting for or riding on public transportation or car service; and
- While outdoors in public spaces and unable to maintain a six-foot distance between individuals who do not reside together.

The ordinance also applies to businesses, organizations and non-profit associations operating within the El Dorado city limits. These organizations must require all employees, customers, visitors, members and the public to wear a mask or face covering where distancing of six feet at all times is not possible, including the following scenarios:

- Employees working in any space visited by customers, the public or co-workers;
- Employees working in any space where food is prepared or packaged;
- Customers, members, visitors or the public in a facility managed by the business or organization; or
- Employees in any room or enclosed area where other people are present and unable to maintain a six-foot distance except for infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity.

“The City Commission adopted the ordinance as a means to help decrease the spread of COVID-19 in El Dorado,” says City Manager David Dillner. “Masks will not prevent the spread of COVID-19, although wearing masks may decrease the chances that the virus will continue to spread. When coupled with good hygiene practices, wearing a mask could serve as a defense against the continuing pandemic.”

More information about the ordinance, including exemptions and penalties, may be found on the City’s website at www.eldoks.com/masks. In addition to the website, the City will post information about the ordinance on official City social media outlets.