RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MOSCOW, IDAHO, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, AUTHORIZING THE TERMINATION OF THE MAYOR’S AMENDED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER 20-03 MADE EFFECTIVE JULY 2, 2020; AND PROVIDING THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE IN EFFECT UPON ITS PASSAGE AND APPROVAL.

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all citizens of the city of Moscow is the greatest priority and is of the utmost importance to the Mayor and City Council; and

WHEREAS, in early 2020 the world became aware of a novel virus, called the coronavirus (hereinafter, COVID-19), a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person, which can result in serious illness or death thereby threatening widespread and/or severe damage to life or property, thereby creating an “emergency” as defined by Idaho Code § 46-1002; and

WHEREAS, local, state, federal and world leaders began to respond to address the novel coronavirus pandemic and minimize its impacts based on the information known at the time and as it evolved; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council made decisions based on science, recommendations from medical experts, and community partners throughout the pandemic with the purpose of prioritizing the health and safety of all citizens of Moscow, which included the issuance and continuance of Amended Public Health Emergency Order No. 20-03; and

WHEREAS, On May 11, 2021, Governor Brad Little moved Idaho to Stage 4 of the Idaho Rebounds Plan and updated the “Stay Healthy Guidelines”; and

WHEREAS, recommendations from the Public Health-Idaho North Central District, and City’s institutional partners indicate that cases of COVID-19 in the area have declined in combination with high percentages of area citizens having been vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has updated its recommendations for fully vaccinated people, which includes but is not limited to, that fully vaccinated people:

- Can resume activities that they did prior to the pandemic.
- Can resume activities without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

WHEREAS, the Idaho Division of Public Health states that 44.8% of Idaho’s population 16 and older and 73.8 % of Idaho’s population 65 and older have been vaccinated as of May 12, 2021.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Moscow as follows:

The Amended Public Health Emergency Order 20-03, ordering every person to maintain a 6-foot physical distance from non-household members when in locations open to the public, within city limits, and to wear a face covering when the 6-foot physical distance is unable to be maintained from non-household members, signed into effect on July 1, 2020, by Mayor Bill Lambert, attached as Exhibit A, shall be terminated.

The following are guidelines that the Mayor and City Council strongly encourage businesses and people to make according to their situation and needs:

1) persons that have not received the COVID-19 vaccination, to continue to keep 6-foot physical distance from non-household members and wear face coverings when in public when distance is unable to be maintained;

2) businesses are permitted to implement more strict regulations, including a mandatory requirement that patrons wear a face covering when entering and remaining in their establishment; and

3) to continue to follow the guidelines and Idaho Rebounds plan issued by the Department of Health and Welfare and Idaho Governor Brad Little.

That this Resolution shall become effective as of the 17th day of May, 2021.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Moscow, Idaho, this 17th day of May, 2021.

ATTEST:

Bill Lambert, Mayor

Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk
WHEREAS, the health and safety of all citizens of the city of Moscow is the greatest priority and is of the upmost importance of the Mayor and City Council; and

WHEREAS, the coronavirus (hereinafter, COVID-19), is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person, which can result in serious illness or death thereby threatening widespread and/or severe damage to life or property thereby creating an “emergency” as defined by Idaho Code § 46-1002; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (hereinafter “CDC”) identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as “high”, and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern”; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, The World Health Organization (WHO) made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Idaho Governor Brad Little, pursuant to Idaho Code § 46-1008, declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19, which is still in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued an emergency declaration for the country in response to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases within the U.S., which is still in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Moscow Mayor Bill Lambert issued a Local Emergency Proclamation, declaring a local disaster emergency due to the occurrence and imminent threat to public health and safety arising from the effects of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), pursuant to Idaho Code § 46-1011 and other relevant sections of Idaho Code; and
WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Moscow City Council adopted Resolution 2020-05, authorizing continuation of Mayor Lambert’s Local Emergency Proclamation until May 5, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Council for the city of Moscow adopted an ordinance enacting a new Chapter 11 to Title 1 of the Moscow City Code, setting forth the authority, purpose, and intent of emergency powers to address the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, Mayor Lambert issued the first Public Health Emergency Order No. 20-01, instituting regulations regarding mass gatherings, restaurants and bars to help prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the City Council extended such Public Health Emergency Order No. 20-01 to May 5, 2020, to provide for the ongoing threat to public life and property; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, Moscow Mayor Bill Lambert proclaimed and declared Public Health Emergency Order No. 20-02 prohibiting gatherings in groups of more than ten (10) persons within a facility, which also applied to educational institutions, expressive and associational activities, including assembly, and church and religious organization activities; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, Governor Brad Little issued a proclamation declaring that there existed an extreme emergency within the State of Idaho and through a press conference declared he was issuing a statewide stay-home order; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, pursuant to Idaho Code § 56-1003(7), Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Director, Dave Jeppesen, issued an Order to Self-Isolate for all individuals living in Idaho, at the direction of Governor Brad Little, to fight the community spread of COVID-19 that had been confirmed in Idaho. The Order was effective until April 15, 2020, subject to be extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended. The isolation order was issued based on advice and direction of state, federal and local public health experts; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, it was deemed necessary by the City Council to extend such Public Health Emergency Order No. 20-02 to May 5, 2020, to provide for the ongoing threat to public life and property, and the Council wished to continue to be proactive and help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to encourage our community members and community businesses to do their part to prevent and limit the spreading of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2020, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Director, Dave Jeppesen, amended the Order to Self-Isolate issued on March 25, 2020, providing

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additional guidance regarding travel into Idaho, regarding certain businesses, and extending the Self-Isolation Order until April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, Governor Little issued a proclamation declaring an extreme emergency within the State of Idaho and declaring the state of emergency proclamation issued on March 13, 2020 and extended on March 25, 2020, continues to be in effect and is extended for a period of thirty (30) days unless terminated, modified or extended; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2020, Governor Little and Director Jeppesen of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, issued the “Stay Healthy Order” effective as of 12:00 a.m. May 1, 2020, implementing Stage 1 of the Governor’s Idaho Rebound plan, and which can be found on the website: rebound.idaho.gov. Governor Little’s plan is one of utilizing a four-staged approach to reopening Idaho and its economy, whereby specific criteria must be met before Idaho advances to the next stage of reopening. The Idaho Division of Public Health and the Governor’s Coronavirus Working Group will review the criteria every two weeks to assess if criteria are met, or continue to be met, so Idaho can move to the next stage; and

WHEREAS, the Council and Mayor have supported the Governor’s guidelines and plans for systematically assessing existing conditions and slowly lifting the current regulations in place through the Stay Healthy Order and the new Stay Healthy Guidelines, and to utilize the proposed staged approach for reopening Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the Council and Mayor permitted the Mayor’s Proclamation of Local Disaster Emergency as modified by Resolution 2020-05, and the Public Health Emergency Orders 20-01 and 20-02 to terminate on May 1, 2020, to avoid any confusion in light of the Stay Healthy Order in effect for all of Idaho at that time; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2020, Washington Secretary of Health, John Wiesman, issued Order 20-03, an order for all of Washington state which requires all individuals to wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth when in any indoor and outdoor public space when the 6-foot physical distancing is not possible, with limited exceptions; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2020, the District Board of Central District Health, State of Idaho, issued an emergency quarantine order pursuant to Idaho Code § 56-1003(7(b), IDAPA 16.02.10.065.09, Idaho Code § 39-415 and § 67-5247, for Ada County bars and nightclubs open to the public for on-site consumption of beverages, be placed under quarantine and must remain closed to on-site consumption; prohibits large venue gatherings; requires six foot physical distancing from non-household members, and makes any violation of said order a misdemeanor pursuant to Idaho Code § 56-1003(7)(c); and
WHEREAS, on June 29, 2020, Whitman County, which is located at the western Moscow City limits, reported it has 38 confirmed cases of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2020, Spokane County, which is located less than 79 miles from Moscow, reported it has 1,344 confirmed cases of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2020, the state of Idaho reported 6,117 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19, 261 of which are located in Kootenai County and where Kootenai County has been identified as a “hotspot” by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, which is located less than 80 miles to the north of Moscow; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2020, Latah County has 16 confirmed cases and 5 probable cases of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2020, The Idaho North Central District, which includes Clearwater County, Idaho County, Latah County, Lewis County and Nez Perce County is reporting a total of 121 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) is reporting that as of June 30, 2020, the United States has 2,381,229 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 126,739 total deaths; and

WHEREAS, Idaho is currently in Stage 4 of Governor Little’s Idaho Rebound Plan, which no longer has any mandatory requirements as the previous Stay Healthy Orders; and

WHEREAS, Governor Little has stated on numerous occasions due to Idaho’s diverse and expansive state, and that not all counties have confirmed cases of COVID-19, he is not mandating statewide face coverings or physical distancing for non-household members and is trusting and encouraging local officials to take any measures they deem necessary and appropriate to protect their community; and

WHEREAS, both the CDC, the federal government, and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and the Idaho North Central Health District have recommended practices to prevent the rapid spread of COVID-19, including maintaining six (6) feet of physical distancing from non-household members and the wearing of face coverings when in public settings and the six feet of physical distancing from others cannot reliably be maintained. The policies, along with other information, are available on the CDC’s official COVID-19 website. (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html); and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 continues to threaten the life and health of the public and public health is imperiled by the person-to-person spread of COVID-19, and the reduction of opportunities for the person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 is necessary to combat the spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the City, as a municipal corporation of the State of Idaho, has the authority to exercise all powers and perform all functions of local self-government in city affairs
that are not in conflict with the general laws or the constitution of the state of Idaho (I.C. § 50-301); and

WHEREAS, the City is empowered to make all such ordinances, bylaws, rules, regulations and resolutions not inconsistent with the laws of the state of Idaho as may be expedient, in addition to the special powers in this act granted, to maintain the peace, good government and welfare of the corporation and its trade, commerce and industry (I.C. § 50-302); and

WHEREAS, under Moscow City Code section 2-1-7 and Idaho Code § 50-304, the City may pass all ordinances and make all regulations necessary to preserve the public health; prevent the introduction of contagious diseases into the city; make quarantine laws for that purpose and enforce the same within five (5) miles of the city; and

WHEREAS, under Idaho Code § 50-606, the Mayor shall have such jurisdiction as may be vested in him/her by ordinance over all places within five (5) miles of the corporate limits of the city, for the enforcement of any health or quarantine ordinance and regulation thereof, and shall have jurisdiction in all matters vested in him/her by ordinance, except taxation, within one (1) mile of the corporate limits of said city and over such properties as may be owned by the city without corporate limits; and

WHEREAS, the city of Moscow has had 3 restaurants voluntarily close for self-quarantine due to a staff member having tested positive for COVID-19 and/or having been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the risk of community spread throughout the city of Moscow is a continued threat, especially due to our unique location in Idaho and our close proximity to states and locations where there is a large number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and evidence of community spread; and

WHEREAS, the rapid spread of COVID-19 to date requires a more aggressive proactive response in order to protect the public and resources to address the supply issues we as a city, state and nation currently face.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lambert, Mayor of the City of Moscow, Idaho, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Moscow City Code Title 1-11-05(B), and the common law authority to protect the public in the event of an emergency, in order to encourage and enforce Social/Physical Distancing of non-household members and reduce the potential for spread of the COVID-19 virus, hereby order as follows:

1. Every person in the city of Moscow must wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth when in any indoor or outdoor public setting where the 6-foot physical distancing is not able to be maintained with non-household members, except as follows:
   a. This Order does not apply to children under 5 years old, however, with the assistance and close supervision of an adult the City strongly recommends...
children wear face coverings when in public spaces where the 6-foot physical distancing cannot be maintained;

b. This Order does not apply to persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;

c. This Order does not apply to those who are incarcerated;

d. Individuals may remove their face covering when in a public setting under the following circumstances:
   i. While at a restaurant, at an establishment or location that allows or offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking, provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least 6-feet from other guests or other non-household members;
   ii. When any party to a communication is deaf or hard-of-hearing and not wearing a face covering is essential to communication;
   iii. While obtaining a health or personal service that requires temporary removal of the face covering;
   iv. When necessary to confirm a person’s identity; and
   v. When local, state or federal law prohibits wearing a face covering or requires the removal of a face covering.

2. Every person in the city of Moscow, when in places that are open to the public, shall maintain 6-foot physical distancing from a non-household member, whenever possible.

3. Definitions.

   a. “Household Members” are defined as people who reside in the same residence regardless of familial relation and people who enter a residence to provide a caretaking function.

   b. “Public Setting” is defined as any place that is open to the public.

4. If this Order and any action of any other agency or official are in conflict, the more protective and most restrictive requirement must be followed, unless prohibited by a state or federal statute or rule.

5. Exemptions. Nothing in this order shall constrain the duties and powers of the City, the Mayor, or other governmental agencies.

6. Penalty. In accordance with Moscow City Code Section 1-11-10, any person who knowingly violates the provisions of this order may be charged with a misdemeanor. The maximum penalties for this offense are up to 6 months in the county jail and a $1,000 fine.

This Emergency Order shall take effect at 12:00 a.m. on July 2, 2020, and shall remain in full force and effect for seven (7) days, subject to be extended by City Council through Resolution unless it is terminated or modified at an earlier date.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this 1st day of July, 2020.

Bill Lambert, Mayor

Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk