

ORDER / RESOLUTION 13-2020

AN ORDER RELATING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF RICE COUNTY, KANSAS THAT IS LESS RESTRICTIVE THAN EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-52 OF THE GOVERNOR OF KANSAS, ISSUED ON JULY 2, 2020

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, in a continuing effort to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus, Governor Laura Kelly issue Executive Order No. 20-52 on July 2, 2020; said executive order requiring that all individuals wear protective masks or face coverings when indoors in public areas, and outdoors when social distancing is not possible. The executive order also placed requirements on businesses and organizations related to the wearing of face masks or face coverings by their employees, customers, visitors, members, and members of the public. Executive Order No. 20-52 was effective at 12:01 am Friday, July 3, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Rice County, acknowledges that Rice County has experienced four cases of Covid-19, none of which are currently active; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners desires to issue an order that is less restrictive than the Governor's Executive Order No. 20-52, pursuant to the authority granted to the Board of County Commissioners by K.S.A. 48-925(h), as amended by HB 2016, which was approved by the governor on June 8, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RICE COUNTY, KANSAS, as follows:

1. The Board of County Commissioners of Rice County, Kansas, hereby makes the following findings: The Board has consulted with the local health officer regarding the Governor's executive order and, following such consultation, finds that implementation of the full scope of the provisions in the Governor's executive order are not required to protect the public health and safety of the county.

2. The Board hereby orders that the restrictions contained in Executive Order No. 20-52 related to the wearing of face masks or face coverings are hereby not applicable in Rice County. Citizens are encouraged to continue taking all reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus, including the frequent washing of hands, social distancing of at least six feet when possible, and the voluntary wearing of masks or face coverings. **The wearing of face masks or face coverings in Rice County, Kansas is not mandatory.**

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED unanimously by the Board of Commissioners, Rice County, Kansas, this 3rd day of July, 2020.

Jared P. Wilson
Jared Wilson, Chairman

Debbie Wiens
Debbie Wiens, Commissioner

H. Derek McCloud, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Aurelia Garcia
Aurelia Garcia, Rice County Clerk

