EXECUTIVE ORDER REGARDING COVID-19 AND THE USE OF SOCIAL DISTANCING/ FACIAL COVERINGS

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis, in his capacity as Governor of the State of Florida, issued Executive Order 20-51, directing the declaration of a public health emergency and establishing the State of Florida's response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, the State Surgeon General declared a public health emergency in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2020, the Seminole County Chairman executed Executive Order 2020-001, declaring a Local State of Emergency under the provisions of Chapter 72, Seminole County Code, due to the serious health threat to those within Seminole County (the "County") arising from and related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, Seminole County remains in a Local State of Emergency related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis, in his capacity as Governor of the State of Florida, issued Executive Order Number 20-52, declaring that a state of emergency exists in the State of Florida by reason of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2020, the White House released Guidelines for Opening Up America Again, a three-phased approach to help state and local officials when reopening their economies, getting people back to work, and continuing to protect American lives; and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 20-112, as modified by Executive Order Number 20-120 on May 9, 2020, and Executive Order Number 20-123 on May 14, 2020, in response to the recommendations set forth in Phase I of the plan issued by the Task Force to Re-Open Florida, and adopted a phased approach to remove or decrease certain restrictions imposed pursuant to the Executive Order Number 20-91, Safer-At-Home Order; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2020, the Governor of Florida issued Executive Order 20-139 related to Phase 2 of the Re-Open Florida Plan; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2020, the United States Surgeon General urged all people to wear face coverings as an important step to slow the spread of coronavirus and reopen the economy; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2020 the Florida Department of Health issued a Public Health Advisory recommending that residents wear a Face Covering, which helps the resident protects others from exposure as well as themselves; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to pose an imminent health hazard and an increased risk of infection to residents of the County and healthcare, first responders, and emergency medical service workers caring for patients with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is spread amongst the population by various means of exposure, including the propensity to spread person to person and the propensity to attach to surfaces for prolonged periods of time, thereby spreading from surface to person and causing increased infections to persons; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have consistently recommended avoiding close physical interaction between people in order to slow the spread of COVID-19, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has updated and further restricted its distancing guidelines; and

WHEREAS, medical research studies indicate that wearing Face Coverings will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and slow the transmission of positive cases; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 252 of the Florida Statutes and Section 72.6(b)(1) of the Seminole County Code, grant the Chief Administrator of Emergency Management the authority to impose by Executive Order during a declared Local State of Emergency any reasonably necessary restrictions for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the people and property of Seminole County; and

WHEREAS, this Executive Order is issued to protect the health and safety of the citizens, residents and visitors of Seminole County, to assist the healthcare delivery system in its ability to serve those persons infected by COVID-19, and to preserve the public's access to essential services and maintain the operation of critical infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Section 1. Definitions.

"Face Covering" – shall mean a uniform piece of material that securely covers a person's nose and mouth and remains affixed in place without the use of one's hands, whether store bought or homemade, concurrent with CDC guidelines.

Section 2. Minimum Standards for Businesses and Places of Assembly. All places of assembly, businesses, and other places open to the public in Seminole County shall follow these conditions, unless precluded by any order issued by the Governor for the State of Florida or if social distancing would preclude the provision of service to a customer, such in a hair salon, nail salon, or other similar personal services:

a) All persons, employees, patrons, and participants must practice physical distancing by staying at least six (6) feet apart (hereinafter "social distancing");

b) Meetings, workshops, training programs, and other modes of assembly must ensure appropriate social distancing; and

c) Checkout points and staging areas, including storefronts, must be monitored for social distancing requirements by means of marking floors or similar actions to maintain social distancing between patrons and employees.

Businesses that provide services requiring employees and patrons to be within six (6) feet of one another, such as hair or nail salons, are subject to all other provisions of this Order.

Section 3. Face Coverings Required. Every person working, living, visiting, or doing business in Seminole County is required to wear a Face Covering consistent with the current CDC guidelines while at all businesses, places of assembly, and other places open to the public. This section does not apply to individuals that are exempt from wearing Face Coverings, as stated in this Order.

Section 4. Face Coverings Outdoors. A Face Covering is not required at outdoor businesses, places of assembly, and other places open to the public if social distancing, as described in Section 2 of this Order, can be accomplished.

Section 5. Exceptions. A Face Covering shall not be required for the following persons:

a) Persons under the age of 2 years;

b) Persons for whom a Face Covering would cause impairment due to an existing health condition or disability;

c) Persons working in a business or profession who are not interacting with the public and who are able to maintain social distancing from co-workers;

d) Persons working in, or patrons of, a business or profession where use of a Face Covering would prevent them from performing the duties or receiving the services of the business or profession;

e) Persons exercising, while maintaining social distancing;

f) Persons eating or drinking;

g) Public safety, fire, and other life safety and health care personnel, as their personal protective equipment requirements will be governed by their respective agencies; and

h) Persons communicating with someone who is hearing-impaired and must see the mouth of someone wearing a Face Covering in order to communicate.

Section 6. Penalties. This Order is intended as a measure to seek voluntary compliance with the provisions contained in the Order and to educate and warn of the dangers of noncompliance. However, in the event voluntary compliance is not achieved, a violation of this Executive Order pursuant to Sections 252.47 and 252.50, Florida Statutes, may be prosecuted consistent with Florida and local law. This Order is enforceable by any county or municipal law enforcement official and code enforcement official.

Section 7. Applicability. This Order is in addition to the Executive Orders issued by Governor DeSantis and Seminole County. Any provision(s) within this Order that conflict(s) with any State or Federal law or constitutional provision, or conflict(s) with or are superseded by a current or subsequently-issued Executive Order of the Governor or the President of the United States, shall be deemed inapplicable and deemed to be severed from this Order, with the remainder of the Order remaining intact and in full force and effect. This Order applies to incorporated and unincorporated Seminole County, but has no application outside of the County.

Section 8. Effective Date; Expiration Date. This Order shall become effective on July 1, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. This Order will remain in effect throughout the Local State of Emergency pursuant to COVID-19, unless earlier rescinded.

ORDERED this 29 day of June, 2020; at 1200 PM.

By: _____
ALAN HARRIS, Chief Administrator
Office of Emergency Management