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Hiram J. Marziano, II, Town Administrator

A MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC REGARDING COVID-19 PROTECTIONS

To Our Citizens, Businesses and Visitors

Thursday, June 25, 2020

The stress of the world weighs on all of us at this time. The events of 2020 tax us heavily. They test our limits. They make us doubt our abilities and forget that we are not individuals, shouldering everything on our own. We are not alone. We are a community. We have the capability to stand together, united in our goals to overcome these events and stressors.

We are not through this pandemic. We may work toward protecting ourselves, our neighbors, our guests – our community – for some time to come. We do not need to succumb to the desire to pretend everything is fine. We need to stay vigilant.

The Town of Sunset Beach calls on you all to do your part in supporting our community. Please continue the preventive actions of the 3 W's: **Wear a cloth face covering. Wait 6 feet apart from others. Wash your hands.**

As of Friday, June 26, 2020 at 5:00 PM, Governor Cooper is requiring the use of face coverings (a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is simply wrapped around the lower face) inside and outside of public areas to include:

- Retail Businesses
- Restaurants
- Personal Care, Grooming, and Tattoo Businesses
- Child Care Facilities, Day Camps, and Overnight Camps
- Gyms, Exercise Facilities, and Fitness Facilities,
- State Government Cabinet Agencies
- Transportation
- High-Density Occupational Settings Where Social Distancing is Difficult, including manufacturing settings, construction sites, and migrant farm or other farm settings
- Meat or Poultry Processing Plants (new surgical mask requirement)
- Long Term Care Facilities (new surgical mask requirement)
- Other Health Care Settings (ongoing adherence to CDC guidance)

There are allowed exceptions. We implore you, please, do not abuse these exceptions. Wearing a face covering does help slow the spread of COVID-19. Wearing a face covering does save lives.

The full content of Executive Order 147 may be viewed here:

<https://governor.nc.gov/documents/executive-order-no-147>

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General Public and Visitors:

The Town of Sunset Beach has been taking action to slow the spread of COVID-19. Our Town facilities remain closed to the public. Please call Town Hall at 910.579.6297 or email specific staff members to set up a meeting with us.

Beach accessways are restricted to one-way travel. Accessible accessways are two-way for people with disabilities only. The Town enacted one-way walkways to assist in social distancing measures. Please follow the directions indicated. Take time to look for the signage and make sure you are going the correct way. Do not pass others. Be courteous to other beach goers. If you must pass another individual or group, wear a face covering. The walkways cannot accommodate 6 feet of separation when passing others. Be responsible for the community health.

Face coverings are not required at all times on the beach strand, but you should still bring one. Social distancing is fully in effect. Groups that are together must stay a minimum of 6 feet away from another group. If talking to people from outside your group and within 6 feet, you should wear a face covering. If approached by Beach Patrol or some other member of the Town of Sunset Beach, you must wear a face covering, and so shall they wear a face covering. This is for everyone's protection. The beach gets crowded. Do not take unnecessary risks and bring your face covering to be safe.

On-street parking is heavily enforced. Do not block driveways. Do not park on the sidewalk. Do not park in the bike lane. Do not double park vehicles in parallel. Park in the direction of traffic. These restrictions are for everyone's safety. These restrictions also apply to golf carts or other personal vehicles. If you need to pay a parking ticket or other such citation, please either mail it in to the Town (Town of Sunset Beach, 700 Sunset Blvd N, Sunset Beach, NC 28468), drop it off in the drop slot at the lobby door, or pay it online at our website: sunsetbeachnc.gov.

Businesses:

Under the Governor's order your staff are to wear face coverings at all times. You are to require your patrons to wear face coverings to enter and make use of the premises. If you have patrons who refuse to wear a face covering, turn them away. If they refuse to leave, call 911 and file a complaint of trespass.

Remember, if you do not comply with the Governor's order or fail to keep patrons from entering without a face covering, a Class 2 Misdemeanor citation will be issued to the business through the owner or management.

We encourage you to post the face covering requirement in some fashion in your establishment.

Prominent display of signage informing patrons that they will be turned away for failure to wear a face covering will go a long way to promoting the health and well-being of our community, as well as protecting you and your staff.

The general public is also encouraged to talk to store management if they see customers not wearing masks. If the store management refuses to deal with the issue, contact 911 and inform of any businesses violating the Governor's order.

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Conclusion:

These regulations and protocols may not go away for some time. Slow down and think. Use some common sense and common courtesy. Recognize that we are all experiencing this event in many of the same ways.

The Town of Sunset Beach asks that you do not play citizen cop. If you see a violation, please inform someone in authority. You may talk to a store representative at a business, flag down a member of beach patrol, or call 911 if you feel that it is a gross violation of the regulations. Please, do not take it upon yourself to confront others. Tensions are high and we do not want any unnecessary incidents to take our public safety personnel away from their primary responsibilities.

We know you want to return to a normal life. We know that this is hard and stressful. We know things feel bleak. We also know that we can beat this – together.

Stay strong. Stay healthy. Stay safe.

Warmest Wishes and Regards,



David S. Phillips
Mayor



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Town Administrator

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