



City of Casa Grande

**CITY OF CASA GRANDE
EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION
AMENDING PRIOR PROCLAMATIONS RELATED TO FACE COVERINGS,
LIMITS ON PUBLIC MEETINGS,
AND OTHER LIMITS ON SERVICES OF THE CITY**

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 26-311 authorizes the Mayor of the City of Casa Grande, Arizona to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the City of Casa Grande is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity or disaster and the Casa Grande City Charter and State Law allow the Mayor to govern by proclamation during such times; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Casa Grande adopted Resolution No. 5223 declaring an emergency within the City as a result of the threat of the COVID-19 Outbreak and I, as the Mayor of the City of Casa Grande, proclaimed an emergency within the City of Casa Grande and set forth certain regulations and orders concerning the operation of the City during this time of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 global pandemic has been the worst public health crisis faced in the State of Arizona and the United States in over a century, causing over 590,000 deaths in the United States and over 17,500 deaths in Arizona, including nearly 900 in Pinal County; and

WHEREAS, over 33 million US residents have been confirmed to have contracted COVID-19, with 879,000 cases in Arizona, and while many cases are asymptomatic, a good number of the survivors have done so only after serious illness and hospitalization with some suffering symptoms months after the initial diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, in order to combat this threat, I, as Mayor, have previously taken steps to help slow the spread of this virus and its effects, including implementing changes in service delivery by the City to assure adequate social distancing during times of substantial transmission, implementing mandates to wear face coverings when unable to socially distance to help slow the spread, and by working with the community to help educate our citizens on the importance of mitigation measures, good hygiene and social responsibility; and

WHEREAS, vaccines to help protect against the effects of COVID-19 have been available to most individuals 18 and older in the State of Arizona and the City of Casa Grande for some time and many of our citizens have already taken advantage of the significant protections afforded by the vaccine – with studies showing full vaccination affording greater than 90% effectiveness at preventing both mild and severe disease – which has helped spark a decline in the number and rate of cases in the City; and

WHEREAS, although it is imperative that more of our citizens get vaccinated to help assure we can all defeat the COVID-19 threat, in order to recognize the decrease in cases and balance that with the desire to help return the City to normal service levels both in the business community and the public sector, I have determined the following orders are necessary and appropriate for the public health and order of the City of Casa Grande;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Emergency Proclamation #4, dated June 19, 2020, which imposed face covering requirements in public settings within the City where continuous physical distancing was difficult to achieve, is hereby repealed in its entirety as of June 1, 2021. In accordance with current CDC guidelines, I still urge unvaccinated persons to continue to wear face coverings and maintain continuous physical distancing to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and urge all citizens to continue to practice good hygiene and to be socially aware and conscious of the continued presence of the virus in our community.

Nothing in this Proclamation prevents an establishment from setting its own stricter standards for masking and social distancing for that business, or from refusing access to anyone not in compliance with those private standards. While this Order does rescind the requirement for face coverings in City-owned facilities, the Casa Grande City Court, which is subject to the direction of the Arizona Supreme Court and Superior Court of Pinal County, may continue requiring face coverings pursuant to such direction and nothing in this Order affects requirements for wearing face coverings in public transportation or as otherwise currently required by federal law or regulation.

2. Paragraphs 4 and 5 of Emergency Proclamation #1, dated March 18, 2020 related to recommendations for limits on dining and other services, are hereby repealed. Further, Paragraph 3 of Emergency Proclamation #2, dated March 27, 2020, and relating to closure of park facilities, is repealed as unnecessary under current guidance.
3. In order to provide citizens with more access to public meetings, effective June 1st, the City's restrictions on in-person attendance at City Council meetings and Boards and Commissions meetings, as well as the pause on public comment at those meetings, as set forth in Paragraph 4 of Emergency Proclamation #2 dated March 27, 2020, and as amended by paragraph 1 of Emergency Proclamation #6 issued in December, 2020, are hereby repealed. The City Manager shall, however, retain the authority to limit capacity of the City Council Chamber or other facilities in order to provide additional distancing for those citizens that are not vaccinated and to take such other actions to limit meetings if necessary due to a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases.
4. Consistent with the City's practice over the past several weeks of encouraging additional outdoor events, and in recognition of both the Executive Orders of the Governor of the State of Arizona and the decrease in cases within the City, any restrictions on the size of events or mitigation measures needed to approve those events as set forth in Paragraphs 5 and 6 of

Emergency Proclamation #5 issued in December, 2020 and as amended by Emergency Proclamation #7 dated the 23rd day of February, 2021, are hereby formally repealed.

5. As the City and State return to work and as the City continues to add employment through the City's economic development activities and efforts, the temporary moratorium on late fees for unpaid utility billings and utility shutoffs, as well as the extension of pet licenses or business licenses provided for in Paragraph 6 of Emergency Proclamation #2 dated March 27, 2020 is hereby repealed as of July 1st, 2021. Nothing in this Order affects the powers and discretion otherwise granted in the City Code to the Finance Director or City Manager relating to billing and collections. City Staff is directed to reach out to ensure that citizens are informed of the return to service in this area and should make information available to citizens expressing a need in this area about the City's partners that may be able to provide utility assistance.
6. The City Manager's authority to limit City services or access to City facilities in the event of a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases is hereby affirmed and he remains authorized and directed to take all necessary and appropriate actions to promote public health and safety, including limiting or prohibiting access to public facilities and public meetings as authorized by Arizona law. The City Manager further retains all other authority delegated to the City Manager by an Emergency Proclamation not inconsistent with the repeals set forth herein, as well as all other authority provided to him by state law or City Code.
7. The Mayor of Casa Grande has determined that the orders included in this Proclamation are necessary to preserve the peace and order, to protect life and property, and to promote and preserve the public safety and welfare of the City of Casa Grande by taking actions related to the spread of COVID-19 and provide protections to City residents, including those most vulnerable to infection, while still preserving the availability of essential services. The Mayor retains and reserves the emergency powers as set forth in the City Charter and under Arizona law to revise, extend, modify or amend this Proclamation or issue such other regulations as required during this continuing emergency.
8. This Proclamation shall be considered severable in each of its provisions and shall be in effect until repealed.

All citizens and businesses are once again urged to cooperate with all Proclamations of the City, as well as to cooperate with safety announcements, advisories, and restrictions established by national, state, and local officials. I urge unvaccinated individuals to continue to comply with directives and suggestions concerning limiting gatherings, social distancing, and face coverings in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. I further urge all of our citizens to inform themselves on the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine and for those citizens that are so inclined to take advantage of the significant protections against COVID-19 the vaccine can provide. And finally, thank you to all of our citizens who have worked diligently, debated civilly, and sought to work together toward our ultimate goal of the elimination of the COVID-19 pandemic. Together we have remained strong and together we will continue to show that strength.

Dated this 1st day of June, 2021



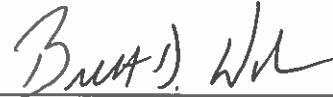
Craig H. McFarland, Mayor

Attest:



Gloria Leija, City Clerk

Approved as to form:



Brett Wallace, City Attorney