CITY OF FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR YVONNE M. SPICER
LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY ORDER NO. EO2020-002

WHEREAS, the City of Framingham and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is being affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency in Massachusetts for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health has declared that there is community-level transmission in Middlesex County; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Baker issued an executive order restricting public gatherings to 10 people or less, closing certain workplaces, and assuring the continued operations of essential services in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer declared a local state of emergency in Framingham to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Framingham; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has consulted with the Director of Public Health regarding the terms of this Order and concurs with it as necessary for the protection of public health during this COVID-19 Pandemic and in furtherance of the Declaration of Local State of Emergency issued on March 22, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus is slowed to protect the ability of our healthcare providers to handle the surge of new patients and safeguard public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of workers of essential services are infected with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of residents of multi-unit residential buildings are infected with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores and pharmacies; and
WHEREAS, the CDC recommendation on cloth face coverings is different from and does not include surgical masks or N95 respirators, which should be reserved for medical professionals and first responders; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has established guidance on how to make cloth face coverings at home (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html); and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2020, the Board of Health issued its Order Relative to the Operation of Essential Services in Framingham pursuant to the authority invested in the Board of Health pursuant to G.L. c. 111 generally and G.L. c. 111 sections 6, 7 and 104 in particular, and pursuant to the authority invested in the Board of Health pursuant to 310 CMR 11.05;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to my authority as Mayor under the March 22, 2020, Declaration of a Local State of Emergency, Article III, Section 2 of the Framingham Home Rule Charter and the general municipal police power and power to protect public health incorporated therein, I hereby order the following:

1. All members of the public aged two years and older entering any essential businesses as defined by Governor Baker’s COVID-19 Executive Orders, including but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies, laundromats, home improvement stores, restaurants (including exterior pickup sites), shall wear a clean face covering, such as a fabric face mask, scarf, or bandana, over their mouth and nose, and exercise social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines. Operators of essential services shall ensure their customers comply with this requirement.

2. All members of the public aged two years and older entering, exiting, or occupying common areas of any multi-unit residential or commercial building shall wear a clean face covering, such as a fabric face mask, scarf, or bandana, over their mouth and nose, and exercise social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines.

3. All employees of all essential services shall wear a clean face covering, such as a fabric face mask, scarf, or bandana, over their mouth and nose, and exercise social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines. Operators of essential services shall ensure their employees comply with this requirement.

4. All nonessential service departments (such as floral, jewelry, furniture, etc.) within a grocery store or box store should be closed.

5. Additional best practices should be employed to the maximum extent possible in order to enhance social distancing in grocery stores, pharmacies, and box stores, including the following:
a. Offering home delivery options and encouraging online ordering and payment;
b. Making public announcements every 30 minutes to remind shoppers to wear cloth face covering, keep physical distance, avoid crowding, keep a physical distance at check-out, and not load items onto conveyor belt until the customer in front has finished their transaction;
c. Consider possible relocation of high demand items to limit the amount of time customers are in the store; and
d. Establish one-way only flow for aisle shopping.


Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer
Mayor

cc: City Council, School Committee, City Division and Department Heads, Boards and Commissions, Chief Operating Officer, City Solicitor, Dr. Robert Tremblay, Media Outlets