8			
9	WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") finds that COVID-19		
10 11	presents a danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and		
12	WHEREAS, COVID-19 is spread through airborne transmission from individuals		
13	sneezing, speaking, and coughing, and infectious droplet nuclei can spread for a great distance		
14	although how far is not fully understood at present; and		
15			
16	WHEREAS, since March of 2020, the Board has proactively directed the implementation		
17	of numerous efforts, including a recent communications campaign, "Mask Up Escambia" to		
18 19	encourage persons in the County to practice social distancing, wash and sanitize their hands, and		
20	wear face coverings as community mitigation strategies to increase containment of COVID-19; and		
21	und		
22	WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis has issued a series of executive orders to reopen Florida		
23	in order to stimulate the economy, and some of the restrictions to flatten the curve and slow the		
24	spread of COVID-19 have correspondingly been relaxed, leading to more contact between		
25	individuals; and		
26	WWW.DDD4G 1 to d 122 cl 00 c 111 Fl 11 D c 12 CH 14		
27	WHEREAS, despite the mitigation efforts, as reported by Florida Department of Health		
28 29	("DOH"), the number of positive cases of COVID-19 in the County has spiked with 6,461 positive cases reported as of July 23, 2020 compared to one month ago on June 23, 2020 when the County		
30	had 1,244 positive cases of COVID-19. On June 23, 2020 Escambia County had a total of 32		
31	COVID-19 patients in our three area hospitals. As of July 23, 2020 Escambia's three area hospitals		
32	are treating 231 patients. This dramatic increase in both new cases of infections and new		
33	hospitalizations indicates a greater local community spread and transmission of the disease; and		
34			
35	WHEREAS, conditions presented by the threat of COVID-19 continue to pose a threat to		
36	the public health that requires dynamic emergency response, including the imposition of additional		
37	mitigation strategies as conditions require, such as the use of protective face coverings; and		
38 39	WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of the disease, the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC")		
40	recommends the use of cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing		
41	measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores and pharmacies, since many individuals		
42	with no symptoms can spread the virus, and even individuals who develop symptoms can transmit		
43	the virus to others before showing symptoms; and		
44			
45	WHEREAS, Florida Medical Association President Ronald L. Giffler, MD, JD, MBA, has		
46	issued a statement urging Floridians to use face coverings to prevent the further spread of COVID-		
47	19, and further calling on local officials to adopt regulations requiring the use of masks of public		

RESOLUTION R2020-\_\_\_\_

THE

**ESCAMBIA** 

RECOMMENDING THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC

SETTINGS TO PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD OF COVID-19;

**BOARD** 

OF

COUNTY,

COUNTY

FLORIDA,

OF

**OF** 

PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

1 2 3

4

5 6

7

A

RESOLUTION

COMMISSIONERS

places, specifically stating "[t]he science is clear. Asymptomatic infected individuals can release aerosol particles while breathing and speaking. Not wearing a mask or face covering increases exposure, whereas universal masking greatly reduces the spread of viral particles. The message is simple: For the sake of your health and health of everyone around you, Florida's doctors want you to wear a mask."; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, State Surgeon General Scott Rivkees issued an additional public health advisory recommending people wear face coverings in any setting where social distancing is not possible, stating that "all individuals [should] refrain from participation in social or recreational gatherings of more than 50 people" and in smaller crowds "practice social distancing by maintaining a distance of at least six feet from each other and wear a face covering."; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends cloth face coverings which are relatively inexpensive and readily available as the CDC states that they can be made from household items and provides online guidance for making "do-it-yourself" coverings for people who cannot or do not want to buy one from the increasing sources producing and selling coverings; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that an emergency exists, and finds implementation of this Resolution strongly encouraging the use of face coverings necessary for the preservation of the health, safety and welfare of the community.

## NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** The above stated recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.

**Section 2.** The Escambia County Board of County Commissioners hereby strongly recommends the use of face coverings by the citizens of Escambia County in order to inhibit the spread of COVID-19.

**Section 3.** This Resolution will take effect immediately upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

ADODTED this

02	ADC		
83			
84			BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
85			ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
86			
87			
88	ATTEST:	Pam Childers	By:
89		Clerk of the Circuit Court	Steven Barry, Chairman
90			
91		By:	
92		Deputy Clerk	
93			
94		[SEAL]	