Pinellas County

Staff Report

File #: 20-1165A, **Version:** 1

Subject:
Emergency Ordinance requiring face coverings.

Recommended Action:
Approval of the emergency Ordinance requiring face coverings.

Strategic Plan:
N/A

Summary:
Due to the recent spike in infection rates of COVID-19, I recommend that the BCC consider an emergency ordinance requiring face coverings. This will require two steps:

Step 1: BCC vote to waive the notice requirements for an emergency ordinance. Florida Statutes section 125.66 provides in part, “The board of county commissioners at any regular or special meeting may enact or amend any ordinance with a waiver of the notice requirements […] by a four-fifths vote of the membership of such board, declaring that an emergency exists and that the immediate enactment of said ordinance is necessary.” That requires a minimum of 6 votes. I recommend that the BCC find that an emergency exists and that the immediate enactment of the ordinance is necessary. After a motion and second take public comment and vote.

Step 2: Review and discuss the Ordinance Options. When a Motion and a Second on a particular option is reached, open public comment, then vote to adopt the chosen option.

Background Information:
Recent infection rates of COVID-19 in Pinellas County have dramatically increased. State and local medical professionals involved in public health have urged that the public utilize masks (face coverings) in addition to social distancing, and proper hand washing. This emergency ordinance will mandate wearing face coverings under certain circumstances.

Fiscal Impact:
N/A

Staff Member Responsible:
N/A

Partners:
N/A

Attachments:
N/A