

RESOLUTION NO. R-20-J

**A RESOLUTION EXEMPTING NEOSHO COUNTY, KANSAS, FROM THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-52**

WHEREAS, the Governor of Kansas has issued an executive order this week mandating the use of face masks in all public areas; and

WHEREAS, such mandate will likely include criminal and/or civil penalties for persons who do not abide by the terms of the executive order; and

WHEREAS, Kansas law authorizes the Board of County Commissioners in any county to issue orders relating to public health that include provisions that are more or less stringent than those set forth in a statewide executive order promulgated by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the Neosho County Board of County Commissioners has consulted with the local health officer and following such consultation concerning the implementation of the use of face masks, as is anticipated in the Governor's executive order, and the Board has determined that the mandatory use of face masks in public is not necessary to protect the public health and safety of Neosho County; and

WHEREAS, as of this date there have been 35 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Neosho County, Kansas, with zero deaths resulting therefrom; and

WHEREAS the Neosho County Board of County Commissioners desires to give flexibility to the citizens of Neosho County to put in place, at their own discretion, protocols for their personal safety, business operations and the operations of the various school districts within Neosho County, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the Board encourages the citizens of Neosho County to voluntarily limit non-essential travel, stay home when feeling ill, wash hands frequently, practice social distancing, and use face masks when social distancing is not possible in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NEOSHO COUNTY that the use of face masks in public as set forth in Executive order 20-52 shall not be required in Neosho County, Kansas. Neosho County, Kansas, reserves the right to modify or rescind this resolution in the event circumstances warrant such modification or rescission.

PASSED BY THE NEOSHO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND APPROVED  
BY THE SAME, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2020.



*Paul Westhoff*  
Paul Westhoff, Commissioner

*Gail Klaassen*  
Gail Klaassen, Chair

*David Orr*  
David Orr, Commissioner

ATTEST:

*Heather Elsworth*  
Heather Elsworth, County Clerk