



# TOWN OF WICKENBURG

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On Sunday, I put out a statement regarding the use of masks and the recent proclamation from Maricopa County mandating masks be used in all areas of the county.

I reached out to our legal counsel for guidance as well as county supervisor Clint Hickman, who represents our district. They have both confirmed that the proclamation applies to all Wickenburg residents, businesses, and government offices. Here are some of the highlights from the new regulations:

- People older than six must wear masks in enclosed public spaces (where 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained)
- Adults with children 2 to 5 years old must make reasonable effort to make them wear masks inside enclosed public spaces
- All riders and operators on public transportation must wear a mask
- Staff working in public spaces (such as restaurants or stores) must wear masks

The regulations include exemptions from wearing masks that include:

- The regulations do not apply to people in homes
- Children under 2 years old
- Restaurant patrons while they are eating and drinking
- People walking or exercising outdoors (while maintaining six feet of distance)
- When in a personal vehicle, office, or other personal space

According to Maricopa County health professionals' extensive studies show that basic face masks made from household fabrics can provide about 60 percent filtration of saliva droplets and efficiency improves with masks that have multiple layers of fabric or a filter. If you would like to learn more about how droplets are spread and how it impacts others, please watch this [video](#), or read more information about the efficacy of masks at [Maricopa County's website](#).

Maricopa County is seeing an increase in the rate of new cases. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, data showed a daily change of 137 cases and 1 death in the county. On June 19<sup>th</sup>, data showed a daily change of 2,055 cases and 16 deaths in the county. The trajectory of cases is going in the wrong direction; the goal is to see these numbers go down and prevent another potential shutdown of our state. No one wants to see that happen again and our economy will not sustain it.

Wickenburg has been very fortunate to have experienced a small number of cases thus far (20 total in the 85390-zip code) and that is in part due to many residents doing the right thing by wearing masks and practicing physical distancing. Thank you!

COVID-19 and the use of masks have become political issues. They are not, this is a human kindness issue. I totally support individual rights and choices, but anyone that can wear a mask, should wear one. It is a simple kind act to do to help your neighbor or friend. I for one will make the commitment to wear a mask when I am in an indoor public place and physical distancing is not possible. I will do so out of respect for you as it protects you more than it does me.

Thank you!

Mayor, Rui Pereira