



Student Government Resolution 120.010

A Resolution Calling on the City of Kirksville to Adopt a Face Mask Mandate Sponsored by Kiren MacLeod, External Affairs Committee Chair; Hildana Assefa, Dan Fox, Mike Owsley, Morgan Sprehe, and PJ Wuennenberg, External Affairs Committee Members

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long term best interest of the Student Association in the formulation of the University policy and in the fulfillment of the University's mission; and
- The Adair County infection rates for COVID-19 are spiking, with Adair County and Kirksville both being considered COVID-19 red zones¹; and
- Wearing a face mask significantly reduces the chances of spreading COVID-19²; and
- Specifically mandating the usage of face masks in public is associated with the daily COVID-19 growth rate declining by up to 2 percentage points 20 days after the face mask order went into effect³; and
- The White House Coronavirus Task Force requested the state of Missouri to implement a face mask mandate⁴; and
- The state of Missouri has not implemented a face mask mandate; and
- COVID-19 is a potentially fatal disease; and
- Even in non-fatal cases, the disease can cause long-lasting damage to victims' lungs, heart, and/or muscles, among other symptoms⁵; and
- An increase in the spread of COVID-19 in Kirksville could potentially cause Truman State University and other local educational institutions to hold classes online; and

¹ <https://adair.lphamo.org/2019-novel-coronavirus-update/>

² [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31142-9/fulltext#%20](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31142-9/fulltext#%20)

³ https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.00818?utm_medium=press&utm_source=media&divisory&utm_campaign=covidfasttrack&utm_content=lyu&

⁴ <https://www.kirksvilledailyexpress.com/story/news/coronavirus/2020/09/01/white-house-covid-19-task-force-told-missouri-to-require-masks-statewide-mdash-2-weeks-ago/113742152/>

⁵ <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/coronavirus-long-term-effects/art-20490351>

- Having either Truman State University or A.T. Still University go fully online would deprive students of their college experience, damage enrollment, and be a substantial financial hit to local businesses; and
- Local K-12 schools going online would force parents and guardians into finding ways to manage their children without having the option of sending them to school; and
- Small businesses would benefit from a mask mandate as they would no longer have to enforce their own mask policies⁶; and
- As per RSMO 77.530, City Councils in the state of Missouri have the authority to “make regulations and pass ordinances for the prevention of the introduction of contagious diseases into the city, and for the abatement of the same”;⁷ and
- Recognizes that the City Council does give weight to the Adair County Health Department’s and Adair County Commission’s guidance; and
- A mandate requiring a mask to be worn in public places would fall under the scope of this law⁷; and
- A mask mandate would demonstrate the city’s commitment to public health;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

- Calls on the Kirksville City Council to pass an ordinance requiring the wearing of masks in indoor public spaces and when within six feet of other people in outdoor public spaces for as long as COVID-19 continues to be a significant threat to public health; and
- Urges that this ordinance have some sort of tangible enforcement mechanism, such as those seen in other Missouri cities and counties⁸; and
- Calls on the Adair County Health Department and Adair County Commission to endorse and aid in the implementation of such an ordinance; and
- Requests that such an ordinance goes into effect as soon as possible.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT,

Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to Dr. Sue Thomas, President; Zac Burden, Jessica Parks, Phillip Biston, Chuck Long, and Rick Steele, Kirksville City Council members; Jim LeBaron, Adair County Health Department Administrator; Sharon Tuttle, Adair County Health Department Secretary; Theresa Hewitt, Adair County Health Department Treasurer; Vern Playle, Adair County Health Department Chairperson; Myra Baiotto, Adair County Health Department Member at Large; Patsy Jones, Adair County Health Department Vice Chairperson; Mark Shahan, Adair County Presiding Commissioner; Bill King, Adair County 1st District

⁶ <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/07/businesses-sick-of-policing-mask-use-ask-government-to-step-in.html>

⁷ <https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=77.530&bid=3642>

⁸ <https://themissouritimes.com/where-are-masks-required-in-missouri/>

Commissioner; Mark Thompson, Adair County 2nd District Commissioner; the Truman Media Network and the University Archives.

Passed 15-0-0, November 22, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Katie Alexander, President of the Student Association