



# City of Casa Grande

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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

For Immediate Release

### **Residents Now Required to Wear Masks In Public Buildings and Private Businesses**

**Casa Grande, AZ** (June 17, 2020) – The (City) of Casa Grande continues to navigate its local community through the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. An overwhelming majority of residents have been supportive in following the [recommendations](#) of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as the Governor reopened the State and as the City organized and implemented measured steps to maintain and return to various service levels. While the City is committed to providing quality services and programs, resident safety remains a paramount concern. Given the mounting body of scientific evidence that shows facemasks can assist with reducing virus spread, the City Mayor and Council are requiring all City employees, those entering or exiting City facilities, residents and local business (patrons) to wear and require facemasks when within 6 feet of others.

Arizona State University (ASU) researchers recently [modeled the effect](#) of how wearing face masks could substantially reduce projected COVID-19 deaths throughout the country. A common fallacy has been by some that if a mask isn't 100% effective--- then why wear it? Take the State of Washington, for instance. ASU researchers found that face masks which were merely 20% effective but worn by most of the Washington population could still reduce mortality by up to 65%. Compounding scientific research like this is why Mayor Craig McFarland said wearing face masks is so important to the health of the Casa Grande community.

“It is now more so than ever critically important for EVERYONE, residents and businesses, to make a sincere commitment to reduce COVID-19 spread to each other and our most vulnerable,” explained McFarland. “Working together, our community can also help to ensure our local healthcare providers retain enough capacity to effectively treat all patients without becoming overwhelmed with critically ill.”

The State, County and City have recognized large increases in confirmed virus cases over the last 10 days. CDC [recommendations](#) call for the wearing of cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (i.e., grocery stores, home supply stores, pharmacies and other retail stores), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, per current CDC guidance. According to McFarland, these things are simple yet very effective in reducing spread.

“Wearing a face mask protects others like your Mom, Dad, Grandmother, Grandfather, Aunt, Uncle and anyone that you love or may know that has a diminished immune system,” continued McFarland.

The City has obtained additional reusable facemasks for City employees and have disposable facemasks to provide to residents who do not have one upon entering City buildings. Casa Grande has specifically implemented the "[Come Back S.M.A.R.T.](#)" campaign to reinforce these efforts.

- S. Shield your cough and sneeze.
- M. Mask up in public.
- A. Apart 6 feet.
- R. Rinse and wash hands for 20 seconds.
- T. Tidy your space with disinfectant/hand sanitizer.

People with COVID-19 experience a wide range of symptoms, from mild to severe. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with symptoms may have:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you are sick, please stay home and take care of yourself until well. Stay in touch with your doctor and avoid public transportation, public places and other people. As much as possible, separate yourself from even family living with you. Monitor your symptoms and seek emergency attention if you have trouble breathing, have persistent pain in the chest, are unable to wake or stay awake or have bluish lips or face.

As the CDC continues to study the spread and effects of the coronavirus across the United States, we now know from recent studies that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (asymptomatic) and even those who eventually develop symptoms (pre-symptomatic) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close-proximity (i.e., speaking, coughing or sneezing), even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms.

As we balance Casa Grande's return to full service with maintaining a healthy community, remember that cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, effective public health measure.

We ask the community to continue to be diligent and focused on helping each other to remain safe and healthy in this unprecedented time and global pandemic. Remember, Come Back SMART Casa Grande!

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*Founded in 1879, the mission of the City of Casa Grande is to provide a safe, pleasant community for all citizens. With a growing population of over 56,000, it is a city with amazing people and historic charm that can only be found in a small town. Still, it offers modern amenities and a broad range of recreation facilities and activities for residents of all ages that are available year-round.*