

Story County Board of Supervisors Administration Building 900 6th Street, Nevada, Iowa 50201

Ph. 515-382-7200 www.storycountyiowa.gov

August 10, 2021

ALL VISITORS MUST WEAR MASKS IN STORY COUNTY BUILDINGS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Nevada, Iowa – Effective Wednesday, August 11, all visitors to County buildings over the age of two, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a face covering unless the individual has a disability that prevents them from wearing a face covering. COVID-19 cases are rising in our community, as a result of the Delta variant, which is more contagious than previous variants. The latest CDC guidelines, released July 27, 2021, advise wearing a mask indoors in public areas if in an area with substantial or high transmission rates. **The majority of Iowa counties, including Story County, are considered high transmission areas.**

Story County will make disposable face coverings available for the public at each County building.

"The Delta variant has been shown to be much more infectious than the previous strains and, although vaccinated individuals are much less likely to contract it, and less likely to become seriously ill or require hospitalization, they have a similar viral load as people who were not vaccinated, so can transmit the virus at the same rate," said Story County Supervisor Linda Murken. "Because vaccines are not yet approved for children under 12, and many people with certain health conditions are not able to be vaccinated, it is up to all of us to help contain the spread of the virus, to reduce potential harm to those individuals. In addition, slowing the spread of the virus helps reduce the likelihood of new variants, possible even worse, variants emerging."

"Similar measures were in effect for several months last year and earlier this year, which helped Story County bring employees back to the workplace safely sooner than, many other agencies," said Murken. "This helped to slow the spread of COVID-19 among county employees, enabling them to continue providing vital public services, while also protecting members of the public who visited Story County offices and facilities."

County buildings remain open to walk-in traffic. Residents and businesses may also conduct County business online, by phone, by email, by mail and by drop boxes located outside County buildings. For questions about County services, please contact individual departments directly or visit Story County's website. Contact information for all County departments is available at <u>www.storycountyiowa.gov</u>.

The COVID-19 vaccine remains the best way to protect yourself and others from becoming infected with the virus. For more information about COVID-19, including where to find a vaccine provider visit https://www.mgmc.org/healthy-living/story-county-public-health/



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For ADA accommodations or to request a pediatric face covering please contact the county's ADA coordinator at (515) 382-7204.

<u>Contact:</u> Story County Board of Supervisors Story County Administration Building 900 Sixth St. Nevada, IA 50201 515-382-7200

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