

RESOLUTION NO. 08-30-21

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THOSE WHO WORK TO PROVIDE HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY DURING THE PANDEMIC; RECOGNIZING THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) COVID-19 GUIDANCE AS UPDATED ON AUGUST 21, 2021; STRONGLY ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO FOLLOW CDC GUIDANCE; ENCOURAGING ALL TAHLEQUAH RESIDENTS OVER THE AGE OF TWELVE (12) TO GET VACCINATED OR TO ADDRESS ANY CONCERNS ABOUT VACCINES WITH A TRUSTED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF COVID-19 IN TAHLEQUAH DURING THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND RECOVERY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus COVID-19 disease to be a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, within the City of Tahlequah there are two health care systems providing primary health care to an extended, multi-county patient base; and

WHEREAS, within Tahlequah and the extended regional area there has been a significant increase in the number of active COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, Cherokee County is currently an area with a High (Red) Level of Community Transmission pursuant to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID Data Tracker; and

WHEREAS, this increase in active COVID-19 cases and transmission rate risk have created a veritable "perfect storm" that has strained capacity at our medical facilities as more adults and children are being diagnosed with COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, causing crowded offices, emergency rooms, floors and intensive care units ; and

WHEREAS, overwhelming our health systems would put all residents of our community and the surrounding area at risk, and should be avoided; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2021, the CDC updated its COVID-19 guidance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tahlequah is charged with the responsibility of protecting public peace, health, order, and safety, and promoting the general welfare of the City of Tahlequah and its residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAHLEQUAH THAT:

Section 1. The Mayor and City Council recognize the ongoing physical and emotional toll of this pandemic upon our Health Care professionals and those who support them. We wish to commend these individuals for their bravery, their perseverance, and their commitment to our community.

Section 2. The Mayor and City Council strongly encourage Tahlequah residents and visitors to follow the most recent CDC guidance, which includes a recommendation to wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission, even if they are fully vaccinated.

Section 3. The City reminds residents and visitors that all individuals, businesses and organizations are free to implement safety protocols, including requiring mask wearing, limiting

occupancy, or implementing distancing standards as deemed necessary to protect their safety, and asks that all residents respect all such requirements.

Section 4. The Mayor and City Council strongly encourages all Tahlequah residents age twelve and up to be vaccinated and to address any questions or concerns about vaccines and boosters with a trusted health professional. It is also encouraged that children over the age of two and under the age of twelve be vaccinated as soon as the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approves and makes such vaccinations available.

Section 5. Emergency Clause Because of a continuing COVID-19 Pandemic, an emergency is now declared to exist for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, and for this reason this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its adoption by the Council.

RESOLVED this 30th day of August, 2021.



Sue Catron, Mayor

ATTEST:



DeAnna Hammons, City Clerk

APPROVED:



Grant Lloyd, City Attorney

