

CITY OF LEWISTON PROCLAMATION AND DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Lewiston, Minnesota ("Mayor") finds that the following local health emergency exists in the City of Lewiston Minnesota ("City"):

1. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization determined that the COVID-19 outbreak constitutes a pandemic, which was followed by federal and state declarations of emergency;
2. On March 17, 2020, I declared a local emergency due to the pandemic and the City Council acted by resolution the same day to extend the declaration;
3. The subsequent development and distribution of highly effective vaccines resulted in a significant reduction in the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths from COVID-19;
4. The continued success in combating the virus resulted in a phased reduction in the state-imposed health mandates and on July 1, 2021, the Governor's peacetime emergency declaration ended, also triggering the end of the City's local emergency declaration;
5. In the time since the State and local emergency declarations ended, infections from the Delta Variant of the SARS-CoV2 virus have risen and research has shown those who are fully vaccinated may become infected with the variant and may transmit it to others;
6. Winona County recently moved from a substantial transmission rate designation to a high transmission rate designation;
7. The recent spread of the Delta Variant among both the vaccinated and unvaccinated has resulted in an abrupt and concerning change in the fight against the pandemic; and
8. The health concerns associated with the variant among those within the City are significant and raise some of the same uncertainties that existed at the start of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, section 12.29 authorizes the mayor of a municipality to declare a local emergency for a period of up to three days;

WHEREAS, the Mayor finds this recent change in the pandemic was sudden and could not have been anticipated; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor finds that the spread of the Delta Variant, and other potential breakthrough variants, threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with COVID-19 are asymptomatic, yet risk transfer to others.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BETH CARLSON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LEWISTON, HEREBY PROCLAIMS:

1. Declare that all meetings of the City Council, and any other board or commission of the City be held by telephone or other electronic means. If technology infrastructure allows, a "hybrid" format can be used, allowing some members of the public body, as well as members of the public, to appear in person, so long as current masking and social distancing requirements can be met.

2. This declaration shall continue for not more than a period of three days from the date of execution unless extended by the City Council.
3. A meeting of the City Council is scheduled for September 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The City Council will discuss this declaration and consider extending the declaration.
4. The City Clerk is directed to give this declaration prompt and general publicity and file consistent to Minnesota Statute, section 12.29.

Dated this 7th day of September, 2021

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Carlson", is written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Carlson