

Harpers Ferry Police Department
1000 Washington St., P.O. Box 551
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
J. D. Brown, Chief of Police

Phone: 304-535-6366

Fax: 304-535-3046

June 29, 2020

Dear Business Owners,

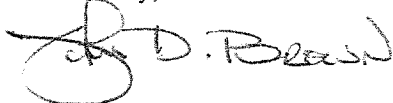
This letter responds to questions concerning public health and safety as businesses have been reopened during the pandemic. Currently there are no state restriction, orders or law requiring the wearing of a face mask while in public. Local government does not have the authority to issue regulation regarding the wearing of mask, social distancing, etc. Therefore, the police department cannot approach or challenge anyone who is not wearing a face mask or is not exercising recommended social distancing.

However, you as business owners can require patrons to wear a face mask while in your business premises. You may also limit the number of patrons in your business at one time and may require appropriate social distancing. We recommend that you post your restriction as prominent temporary signage on a door or in the window. If a person enters your business without a mask, kindly ask them to put on a mask. Should that person refuse, you must decide whether you will allow him/her to remain in your store. If you decide that the patron must wear a mask while in your business, then please ask that person to leave. You have the right to refuse service to any patron who is not wearing a mask. If the patron refuses to wear a mask and refuses to leave your place of business, please call the police at 911 or the non-emergency number 304-725-8484.

Once an officer arrives, by law you'll have to ask that person to leave again in the presence of the officer. If he/she refuses, the officer will advise that person to leave or face charges of trespassing under the WV Code or Municipal ordinance. If that person still refuses to leave, he/she will be cited and or arrested, depending on the person's actions.

Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 304-535-6366.

Sincerely,



John D. Brown, Chief of Police

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