

## **RESOLUTION NO. 694**

### **A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING INDOOR MASKING WITHIN ROELAND PARK, KANSAS**

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and which can result in serious illness or death among some who are infected; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 26, 2021 the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the new COVID variant, named Omicron, a variant of concern because it has a large number of mutations and preliminary evidence suggests an increased risk of reinfection and spread across the world, including to the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, transmission rates, positive cases and hospitalizations are increasing to levels previously not seen in Johnson County and;

**WHEREAS**, the WHO and the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have advised all individuals to take measures to reduce their risk of COVID-19, especially the Delta and Omicron variants, including proven public health measures such as wearing well-fitting masks, physical distancing, hand hygiene and getting vaccinated; and

#### **THEREFORE, YOU ARE HEREBY PROVIDED NOTICE THAT:**

1. All individuals, regardless of vaccination status or past COVID-19 infection, should wear a mask at all times when indoors and in a public setting, including at groceries, offices, stores, and other common or shared spaces where individuals may interact such as restrooms, hallways, elevators and meeting rooms.
2. All masks should cover the nose and the mouth and rest snugly above the nose, below the mouth and on the sides of the face. Higher quality masks, such as KN95s, can offer an additional layer of protection.
3. This advisory applies to all individuals in Roeland Park over the age of five years old who are able to medically tolerate wearing a mask.
4. This advisory does not apply
  - i. in cases where an individual is actively eating or drinking while seated at a restaurant that offers food or beverage service;
  - ii. in cases where athletes are engaged in an organized sports activity that allows athletes to maintain a 6-foot distance from others, or persons engaged in activities and athletics inside school buildings, who should follow KSHSAA and/or school guidelines;
  - iii. Person who are deaf or hard of hearing, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.