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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### WINNEBAGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ISSUES FACE MASK ORDER

OSHKOSH, WI (February 16, 2021) – The Winnebago County Health Department is issuing a face mask order for the Winnebago Health Department jurisdiction which would go into effect if Governor Evers' face mask order is overturned by the State Legislature. The order was released today and will remain advisory until affirmed by a majority of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors. The Board is set to vote on this order at their next meeting on February 23, 2021.

"The Winnebago County Health Department has an interest in protecting the public health, safety and welfare of all people in Winnebago County from the continued spread of COVID-19. The widespread use of face coverings will slow the spread of COVID-19 and allow our economy to move forward while minimizing the strain on healthcare resources," stated Doug Gieryn, Health Officer/Director for the Winnebago County Health Department.

The advisory stipulates that every individual, age five and older, in Winnebago County shall wear a face covering if both of the following apply:

- (a) The individual is indoors or in an enclosed space, other than at a private residence; and
- (b) Another person or persons who are not members of an individual's household or living unit are present in the same room or enclosed space.

Face coverings are strongly recommended in all other settings, including outdoors when it is not possible to maintain social distancing, with some exceptions as clarified and defined in the order. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), and the Winnebago County Health Department recommend the use of face coverings as an effective measure to limit the spread and exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

According to the CDC Director, cloth face coverings are one of the most powerful weapons we have to slow and stop the spread of the virus – particularly when used universally within a community setting.

"Without measures to slow the spread of COVID-19, Winnebago County will suffer from more unnecessary illness, vulnerability from an overwhelmed healthcare system, and insecurity from an unstable economy," Gieryn states.

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Winnebago County intends to seek voluntary compliance from all individuals concerning the wearing of face coverings. The Winnebago County Health Department General Face Coverings Order is only advisory until February 23, 2021 when the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors meet to vote on the order. The authority for this Order is Chapter 252, Wis. Stats.; §66.0113 and 66.0119, Wis. Stats.,

§251.06(3), Wis. Stats., DHS 145.05 and 145.06, Wis. Admin. Code, and Winnebago County General Code 11.08 and 25.04.

For additional information on the COVID-19 response in Winnebago County, visit the Winnebago County Health Department's website at [www.winnebagopublichealth.org](http://www.winnebagopublichealth.org).

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