The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Principal Chief Richard G. Sneed
Vice Chief Alan B. Ensley

EXECUTIVE ORDER # 17 (2020)
June 23, 2020

Mask Mandate

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians continually monitors the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Qualla Boundary. Several people in our community have tested positive for the virus and we recently had our first confirmed death related to COVID-19. These unfortunate events are prompting us to impose more stringent requirements to protect the safety and welfare of our tribal citizens and community members.

Therefore, beginning 5pm on Friday, June 26th, 2020 all persons 12 years of age and older must wear a face covering in all indoor retail establishments, businesses, restaurants, public commercial facilities, including libraries and public transportation. This order shall apply to the shared common areas in all hotels, campgrounds, and lodging.

This provision does not apply in the following places or situations:

- While dining in restaurants
- While occupying your designated camping area
- For reasons related to an individual’s medical condition or disability
- In private offices
- In areas in retail establishments, businesses and restaurants that are not open to the public
- When complying with directions of law enforcement officers
- In settings where it is not practical or feasible to wear a face covering

This order shall not apply to outdoor shared space (e.g. the Island Park, or sidewalks, or playgrounds). Visitors and residents are strongly recommended to social distance to the extent possible while using those shared spaces. This order shall be effective until further notice.

This order is issued under authority granted in Cherokee Code Chapter 166, Article II, and the Declaration of State of Emergency issued on March 13, 2020. It is a supplement and amendment to that Declaration and shall remain in effect while the Tribe is under the State of Emergency.

Richard Sneed, Principal Chief
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

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