

To: **Mayor and City Council**  
From: **Nate Burkett, City Manager**  
Date: **May 19, 2021**

## **COVID – 19 Update**

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### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

On May 6, 2021 Governor Walz issued Executive Order 21-21 which set a timeline to dial back COVID-19 public health restrictions. On May 14, 2021 in response to a change in CDC guidance on mask requirements, Governor Walz issued Executive Order 21-23 which repeals the state-wide mask requirement.

Restrictions in city offices and work sites have been modified to align with these executive orders.

Staff has kept mask and social distancing requirements in effect for council meetings in order to allow council to determine their desired course of action. Beginning on May 28 all COVID requirements that would impact city council meetings will have been repealed. The council has the option to continue mask, capacity and social distancing requirements during council meetings. The council also may, under the current executive order and city-wide peacetime emergency resolution declare a city-wide mask mandate for all places of public accommodation.

In addition, staff is seeking direction as to the future set-up for OCWS meetings. Prior to COVID restrictions, OCWS was held in the conference room and was audio recorded but not broadcast. Since OCWS has been held in the council chambers it has been broadcast. Council may wish to consider the possibility that OCWS is best held around a smaller table rather than at the dais in an effort to facilitate better discussion on matters between council members. Council needs to determine if OCWS should continue to be broadcast, and if council is comfortable moving back to a layout around a smaller table to facilitate interpersonal interaction.

Staff has identified a couple of options to allow OCWS to be held around a smaller table and to continue with broadcast, however those options have a cost. If it is the desire of Council to hold OCWS around a smaller table and to continue broadcasting OCWS, staff will work out those details in the coming months.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

The council is requested to discuss and direct staff as to their wishes for:

- Mask, capacity and social distancing requirements during council meetings and committee meetings
- Future set-up of OCWS