



## *Shepherdstown Police Department*

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Michael L. King, Chief of Police

Post Office Box 237 – 104 N. King St.  
Shepherdstown, West Virginia 25443  
Office (304) 876-6036 Fax (304) 876-7198

18 May 2020

Dear Business Owner,

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

However, you as business owner can require patrons to wear a face mask while on 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 restrictions as prominent temporary signage on a door or in a window. If a person enters your store without a mask, kindly ask them to put on a mask. Should that person refuse, you must decide whether you will allow him or her to remain in your store. If you decide that the patron must wear a mask while in your store, 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 business premises, please call the police at 911 or the non-emergency number 304-725-8484.

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

Should you have any questions please feel free to call me at 304-876-6036.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike King", is written over a horizontal line.

Mike King, Chief of Police