

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-03

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WILSON CREEK,
WASHINGTON, DECLARING THE TOWN OF WILSON CREEK
A NO MASK AND NO VACCINE MANDATE TOWN.**

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2023, at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Wilson Creek, Mayor Robert Herron requested a resolution declaring the Town of Wilson Creek a “No Mask and no Vaccine Mandate Town” pertaining to response to COVID-19 and variants (all COVID-19 and related variants hereinafter as “COVID-19”); and,

WHEREAS, America is built upon freedoms, rights, and responsibilities, and the Town of Wilson Creek recognizes freedom and individual choice in making health decisions, local control, and civic pride; and,

WHEREAS, in early 2020, COVID-19 and the State, County, and local response to the pandemic caused significant hardship to the residents and business of the Town of Wilson Creek, including depriving individuals of freedom of movement and freedom to choose how to handle their own individual health and response to health concerns; and,

WHEREAS, the government responses to COVID-19 from 2020 through 2021 disrupted more than a century of Wilson Creek’s embrace and exercise of individual freedoms, including but not limited to moving freely throughout the Town and individuals making their own personal health decisions. This disruption included the government-imposed mask-wearing and vaccine mandates; and,

WHEREAS, a retrospective analysis has shown that government responses to COVID-19 were not convincingly or compellingly supported by medical or scientific evidence and therefore did not justify governments imposing on, or depriving of, individual liberties and the freedoms of businesses to make choices best for their own safety and self-determination; and,

WHEREAS, individuals not directly at risk of direct exposure should have a right to choose whether to wear a mask or not, or whether to get vaccinated or not, and if someone chooses to, they should be allowed to; and,

WHEREAS, there is presently no competing authority by the State of Washington or Grant County, Washington, mandating masks or vaccine.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Wilson Creek, Washington, Resolves and Declares, as follows:

1. The Town of Wilson Creek is hereby a “NO MASK AND NO VACCINE MANDATE TOWN;” and
2. As such, the Town of Wilson Creek hereby bans broad (universal) mask-wearing and vaccine mandates within its jurisdiction (recognizing exceptions may exist for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19); and
3. Such that individual are free to choose whether to wear a mask, or, whether to be vaccinated; and
4. Businesses throughout the Town are free to choose whether to require patrons to wear masks, or, whether to show proof of vaccination; and

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-03

5. The following exceptions to this NO MASK AND NO VACCINE MANDATE TOWN Declaration are as follows:
- a. Employees of the Town of Wilson Creek who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been directly exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 will continue to follow the mask-wearing recommendations by Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) for recommended absence from work and for temporary mask-wearing upon return to work. At no time, however, will the Town of Wilson Creek require Town employees to receive COVID-19 vaccinations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Wilson Creek, at a regular meeting thereof, this 9th day of November 2023.

Robert Herron, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kaci Anderson, Clerk/Treasurer

Michael Wyman, Town Attorney