



**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA  
SUPERSEDING HEALTH OFFICER ORDER NO. HO-COVID19-08, GENERALLY  
REQUIRING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND WORKERS TO WEAR FACE  
COVERINGS**

**ORDER NO. HO-COVID19-22**

**DATE OF ORDER: JULY 5, 2020**

**Summary and Basis of the Order**

This Order requires that all individuals in Contra Costa County (“County”) wear face coverings in accordance with guidance issued by the State of California. This Order is issued in light of the existence in the County, as of July 4, 2020, of 3,564 confirmed cases of infection by the virus that causes Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), including a significant and increasing number of cases of community transmission. This Order is necessary to slow the rate of spread. This Order supersedes the Order of the Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa issued on April 17, 2020, which imposed a requirement that members of the public and workers wear face coverings in specified situations.

A key transmission method for the virus that causes COVID-19 is respiratory droplets that people expel when they breathe or sneeze. People can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 and not have any symptoms, meaning they are asymptomatic, but can still be contagious. People can also be infected and contagious 48 hours before developing symptoms, the time when they are pre-symptomatic. Many people who have been infected with the COVID-19 virus have mild symptoms and do not recognize they are infected and contagious, and they can unintentionally infect others. Therefore, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Contra Costa County Health Services Department believe that wearing a face covering, when combined with physical distancing of at least 6 feet and frequent hand washing, may reduce the risk of transmitting the COVID-19 virus when engaged in activities in public when others are nearby.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040 and 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:



1. **Past Order.** This Order supersedes Health Officer Order No. HO-COVID19-08, which is referred to as the “Face Covering Order” in other orders of the Health Officer. Requirements in other Health Officer orders to comply with the Face Covering Order will be interpreted as requirements to comply with this Order.

2. **Compliance with State Guidance.** All individuals in the County shall comply with the applicable face covering requirements set forth in the June 18, 2020, CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings (“State Face Covering Guidance”), a copy of which is attached hereto, as may be amended from time to time.

3. **Face Coverings.** The term “face covering” in the State Face Covering Guidance (“Face Covering”) means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers the nose and mouth, but does not hide or obscure the wearer’s eyes or forehead. The Face Covering should be comfortable, so that the wearer can breathe comfortably through the nose and does not have to adjust it frequently, so as to avoid touching the face. A video showing how to make a Face Covering and additional information about how to wear and clean Face Coverings may be found at the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>. Any mask that incorporates a one-way valve (typically a raised plastic cylinder about the size of a quarter on the front or side of the mask) that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling is not a Face Covering and may not be used to comply with this Order. Even when not required by this Order, people are strongly encouraged to wear Face Coverings when in public.

4. **Local Requirements.** Subject to the exemptions set forth in the State Face Covering Guidance, including but not limited to exemptions in industry guidance documents issued by the State of California, individuals and businesses in the County must comply with the following local requirements, as applicable:

a. Individuals shall wear Face Coverings when less than 6 feet away from any person who is not a member of the individual’s household or living unit.

b. Individuals must wear Face Coverings when inside or on the grounds of, or waiting in line to enter, any business.

c. Businesses must take all reasonable steps to prohibit an individual who is not wearing a Face Covering from entering. If those efforts are not successful, the business must not serve that individual, and must seek to remove the individual from the premises.

5. **Incorporation of Emergency Proclamations.** This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the March 4, 2020, Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom and the March 10, 2020, Proclamation by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors declaring the existence of a local emergency.



**6. Enforcement.** Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order. The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

**7. Effective Date and Time.** This Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on July 6, 2020, and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.

**8. Copies; Contact Information.** Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the Office of the Director of Contra Costa Health Services, 1220 Morello Avenue, Suite 200, Martinez, CA 94553; (2) posted on the Contra Costa Health Services website (<https://www.cchealth.org>); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order. Questions or comments regarding this Order may be directed to Contra Costa Health Services at (844) 729-8410.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**



July 5, 2020

Chris Farnitano, M.D.  
Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa

Attachment:

June 18, 2020, California Department of Public Health Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings





SONIA Y. ANGELL, MD, MPH  
State Public Health Officer & Director

# State of California—Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor

Released June 18, 2020

- Revised on June 29, 2020 to clarify that children under two years old are exempt from wearing face coverings due to risk of suffocation

## GUIDANCE FOR THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS

Because of our collective actions, California has limited the spread of COVID-19 and associated hospitalizations and deaths in our state. Still, the risk for COVID-19 remains and the increasing number of Californians who are leaving their homes for work and other needs, increases the risk for COVID-19 exposure and infection.

Over the last four months, we have learned a lot about COVID-19 transmission, most notably that people who are infected but are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic play an important part in community spread. The use of face coverings by everyone can limit the release of infected droplets when talking, coughing, and/or sneezing, as well as reinforce physical distancing.

This document updates existing [CDPH guidance](#) for the use of cloth face coverings by the general public when outside the home. It mandates that face coverings be worn state-wide in the circumstances and with the exceptions outlined below. It does not substitute for existing guidance about social distancing and handwashing.

### Guidance

People in California must wear face coverings when they are in the high-risk situations listed below:

- Inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor public space;<sup>1</sup>
- Obtaining services from the healthcare sector in settings including, but not limited to, a hospital, pharmacy, medical clinic, laboratory, physician or dental office, veterinary clinic, or blood bank;<sup>2</sup>
- Waiting for or riding on public transportation or paratransit or while in a taxi, private car service, or ride-sharing vehicle;
- Engaged in work, whether at the workplace or performing work off-site, when:
  - Interacting in-person with any member of the public;
  - Working in any space visited by members of the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time;

<sup>1</sup> Unless exempted by state guidelines for specific public settings

<sup>2</sup> Unless directed otherwise by an employee or healthcare provider



- Working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
- Working in or walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities;
- In any room or enclosed area where other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present when unable to physically distance.
- Driving or operating any public transportation or paratransit vehicle, taxi, or private car service or ride-sharing vehicle when passengers are present. When no passengers are present, face coverings are strongly recommended.
- While outdoors in public spaces when maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet from persons who are not members of the same household or residence is not feasible.

*The following individuals are exempt from wearing a face covering:*

- Persons younger than two years old. These very young children must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
- Persons who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking, provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.
- Persons who are engaged in outdoor work or recreation such as swimming, walking, hiking, bicycling, or running, when alone or with household members, and when they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others.

- Persons who are incarcerated. Prisons and jails, as part of their mitigation plans, will have specific guidance on the wearing of face coverings or masks for both inmates and staff.

**Note:** Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.

## **Background**

*What is a cloth face covering?*

A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

*How well do cloth face coverings work to prevent spread of COVID-19?*

There is scientific evidence to suggest that use of cloth face coverings by the public during a pandemic could help reduce disease transmission. Their primary role is to reduce the release of infectious particles into the air when someone speaks, coughs, or sneezes, including someone who has COVID-19 but feels well. Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing, washing hands, and staying home when ill, but they may be helpful when combined with these primary interventions.

*When should I wear a cloth face covering?*

You should wear face coverings when in public places, particularly when those locations are indoors or in other areas where physical distancing is not possible

*How should I care for a cloth face covering?*

It's a good idea to wash your cloth face covering frequently, ideally after each use, or at least daily. Have a bag or bin to keep cloth face coverings in until they can be laundered with detergent and hot water and dried on a hot cycle. If you must re-wear your cloth face covering before washing, wash your hands immediately after putting it back on and avoid touching your face. Discard cloth face coverings that:

- No longer cover the nose and mouth
- Have stretched out or damaged ties or straps
- Cannot stay on the face
- Have holes or tears in the fabric