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Clerk of the Superior Court

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**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**  
**COUNTY OF SOLANO**

In re the matter of: ) MISC. NO. M-15-2020  
) **SECOND AMENDED 12/16/20**  
MANDATORY WEARING OF FACE )  
MASKS IN ENCLOSED PUBLIC )  
SPACES OF THE SOLANO )  
COUNTY COURTHOUSES )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**The Court finds as follows:**

1. COVID-19, commonly known as the novel Coronavirus, has spread throughout the United States and sometimes causes severe illness and death; and
2. The President of the United States has declared a national emergency as a result of the Coronavirus; and
3. The Governor of the State of California had declared a state of emergency as a result of the Coronavirus; and
4. The County of Solano has declared a county-wide emergency as a result of the Coronavirus; and

- 1 5. The residents of the state and the County of Solano have been dramatically impacted
- 2 by COVID-19 and federal, state and local government responses thereto; and
- 3 6. The novel Coronavirus is highly contagious and poses a threat to the well-being of
- 4 every person; and
- 5 7. The Center for Disease Control recommends wearing of cloth masks to limit the
- 6 spread of the novel Coronavirus, not plastic face shields; and
- 7 8. The United States Surgeon General recommends wearing of masks to limit the spread
- 8 of the novel Coronavirus; and
- 9 9. On June 18, 2020, the California Department of Public Health mandated wearing of
- 10 face masks in any indoor public space (see attached order); and
- 11 10. It has been shown that the wearing of face masks by individuals is highly effective in
- 12 limiting the spread of the novel Coronavirus; and
- 13 11. Prospective jurors are now being summoned to the courthouses; and
- 14 12. There is a spike in new Coronavirus cases statewide consistent with the gradual
- 15 lessening of the Governor's shelter at home order as many counties move into Stage
- 16 3 of the state's reopening plan;
- 17 13. Solano County is experiencing a spike in new Coronavirus cases; and
- 18 14. The Solano County Court has an important governmental interest in protecting the
- 19 health and welfare of all who enter the courthouses including members of the public,
- 20 litigants, staff, attorneys, justice partners, witnesses, jurors, and judicial officers; and
- 21 15. Requiring the wearing of face masks in enclosed public spaces will provide
- 22 additional protections to all who enter the courthouses.

1 **BASED ON THE ABOVE FINDINGS IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

2 1. Each person, including court staff, over the age of three years old shall wear a cloth  
3 mask or cloth face covering which covers both the mouth and nose ("Face Mask") at  
4 all times when in an enclosed space in any of the four Solano County courthouses  
5 open to members of the public. Plastic shields are not acceptable.

6 Notwithstanding the foregoing, an individual may remove their masks while alone in  
7 their office, but shall wear Face Masks when anyone enters their office or when they  
8 leave their office.

9 2. This order includes any lobby, hallway, elevator, stairwell, jury assembly room,  
10 courtroom, or any other enclosed areas which are accessible to more than one person  
11 at a time.

12 3. This Emergency Order shall only apply to persons over the age of three years old. It  
13 shall not apply to anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated,  
14 or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance, anyone with a disability  
15 or medical condition for whom wearing a Face Mask is not recommended by their  
16 healthcare professional, and/or any other person exempted by any federal, state or  
17 local law or regulation.

18 4. Any judicial officer may require an individual to remove a mask or may authorize a  
19 face shield, as needed, to facilitate fair and effective courtroom proceedings, as long  
20 as six feet of social distance can be maintained.

21 5. This Emergency Order shall take effect June 18, 2020.

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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

June 18, 2020

## 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 (e.g., school or childcare center)

<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 age two years or under. 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