



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 Emeline Ave., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962

TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: Call 711

### Public Health Division

#### ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER GENERALLY REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS

**Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code § 120295, *et seq.*; Cal. Penal Code §§ 69, 148(a)(1))**

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ ("HEALTH OFFICER") ORDERS:

1. This Order temporarily requires the use of Face Coverings in order to further slow transmission of Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19"). This Order shall become effective at 11:59 p.m. on April 24, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer. All individuals, businesses and government agencies in the County of Santa Cruz ("County") are required to follow the provisions of this Order. This Order applies to the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County as well as the cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Watsonville.
2. This Order is issued in accordance with and incorporates the March 31, 2020 Order of the Health Officer of the County of Santa Cruz Directing All Individuals in the County to Continue Sheltering at Their Place of Residence Through May 3, 2020; and Providing Further Clarification and Limitation.
3. This Order is based on evidence of increasing occurrence of COVID-19 within Santa Cruz County, California and the United States. In the County, as of April 22, 2020 there are 111 cases of COVID-19 and two fatalities.
4. The Health Officer has determined that this Order, and her prior Orders, were and are necessary because COVID-19 is present in the County, is highly contagious, and is spread through respiratory droplets that are produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets may land on other people or be inhaled into their lungs, may land on and attach to surfaces where they remain for days, and may remain viable in the air for up to three hours, even after the infected person has left. When worn properly, Face Coverings have the potential to slow the spread of the virus by limiting the spread of these droplets. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Public Health now 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 COVID-19 by reducing the spread of respiratory droplets.
5. As used in this Order, a "Face Covering" means a covering made of cloth, fabric or permeable materials, without holes, that covers only the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face. A covering that hides or obscures the wearer's eyes or forehead is not a Face Covering. Examples of Face Coverings include a scarf or bandana; a neck gaiter; a homemade covering made from a t-shirt, sweatshirt, or towel,

held on with rubber bands or otherwise; or a mask (which need not be medical grade). A Face Covering may be factory-made or may be handmade from ordinary household materials.

Note that 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 under this order and is not to be used to comply with this Order's requirements. Valves of that type permit droplet release from the mask, putting others nearby at risk.

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>

6. All members of the public, except as specifically exempted below, must wear a Face Covering in the following situations:
  - a. When they are inside of, or in line to enter, or when conducting business through a car window or walk-up counter with any Essential Business (as that term is defined in Section 12.f of the March 31, 2020 Shelter-In-Place Order), including, but not limited to, grocery stores, convenience stores, supermarkets, laundromats, and restaurants;
  - b. When they are inside of or at any location or facility engaging in Minimum Basic Operations or when they are inside of or at any location providing Essential Government Functions (as defined in Sections 12.g and 12.d, respectively, of the March 31, 2020 Shelter-In-Place);
  - c. When they are engaged in Essential Infrastructure work (as defined in Section 12.c of the March 31, 2020 Shelter-In-Place Order);
  - d. When they are obtaining services at Healthcare Operations (as defined in Section 13.b of the March 31, 2020 Shelter-In-Place Order) including hospitals, clinics, COVID-19 testing locations, dentists, pharmacies, blood banks and blood drives, other healthcare facilities, mental health providers, or facilities providing veterinary care and similar health care services for animals, unless specifically directed otherwise by an employee or worker at the Healthcare Operation; or
  - e. When they are waiting for or riding on public transportation, paratransit or are in a taxi, private car service, or ride-sharing vehicle.
7. Each driver or operator of any public transportation or paratransit vehicle, taxi, or private car service or ride-sharing vehicle must wear a Face Covering while driving or operating such vehicle, regardless of whether a member of the public is in the vehicle, due to the need to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets in the vehicle.
8. All Essential Businesses, as well as entities and organizations with workers engaged in Essential Infrastructure work, Minimum Basic Operations, or Essential Government Functions (except for Healthcare Operations, which are subject to their own regulations regarding specified Face Coverings) must:
  - a. Require their employees, contractors, owners, and volunteers to wear a Face Covering at the workplace and when performing work off-site any time the employee, contractor, owner, or volunteer is:
    - i. interacting in person with any member of the public;
    - ii. working in any space visited by members of the public, such as by way of example and without limitation reception areas, grocery store or pharmacy aisles, service counters, public restrooms, cashier and checkout areas, waiting rooms, service areas, and other spaces used to interact with

- the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time;
- iii. working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
- iv. working in or walking through common areas such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities; or
- v. in any room or enclosed area when other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present.

For clarity, a Face Covering is not required when a person is in a personal office (a single room) when others outside of that person's household are not present so long as the public does not regularly visit the room. By way of example and without limitation, a construction worker, plumber, bank manager, accountant, or bike repair person is not required to wear a Face Covering if that individual is alone and in a space not regularly visited by the public, but that individual must put on a Face Covering when coworkers are nearby, when being visited by a client/customer, and when anywhere members of the public or other coworkers are regularly present.

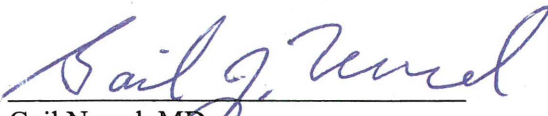
- b. Take reasonable measures, such as posting signs, to remind their customers and the public of the requirement that they wear a Face Covering while inside of or waiting in line to enter the business, facility, or location. Essential Businesses and entities or organizations that engage in Essential Infrastructure work, Essential Government Functions, or Minimum Basic Operations must take all reasonable steps to prohibit entry to any member of the public who is not wearing a Face Covering, and must not serve that person.
9. Any child aged two years or less must not wear a Face Covering because of the risk of suffocation. Moreover, this Order does not require that any child between the ages of 2 and twelve years wear a Face Covering, including but not limited to, when attending childcare activities (as described in Section 12(f)xxvii of the March 31, 2020 Shelter-In-Place Order). Parents and caregivers must supervise use of Face Coverings by children to avoid misuse.
10. Wearing a Face Covering is recommended but not required while engaged in outdoor exercise such as walking, hiking, bicycling, or running. But each person engaged in such activity must comply with social distancing requirements including maintaining at least six feet of separation from all other people to the greatest extent possible. Additionally, it is recommended that each person engaged in such activity bring a Face Covering and wear that Face Covering in circumstances where it is difficult to maintain compliance with social distancing requirements, and that they carry the Face Covering in a readily accessible location, such as around the person's neck or in a pocket, for such use. Because running or bicycling causes people to more forcefully expel airborne particles, making the usual minimum 6 feet distance less adequate, physical distance of greater than 6 feet should be maintained when engaging in these activities. People should avoid spitting in conjunction with exercise.
11. This Order does not require any person to wear a Face Covering while driving alone, or exclusively with other members of the same family or household, in a motor vehicle.
12. A Face Covering is also not required by this Order to be worn by a particular individual if the person can show either: (1) a medical professional has advised that wearing a Face Covering may pose a risk to the person wearing the Face Covering for health-related reasons; or (2) 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. A Face Covering should also not be used by anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the Face Covering without assistance.

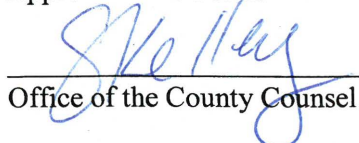
13. Face Coverings should be comfortable, so that the wearer can breathe comfortably through the nose and does not have to adjust it frequently, so as to avoid touching the face. For as long as medical grade masks such as N95 masks and surgical masks are in short supply, members of the public should not purchase those masks as Face Coverings under this Order; those medical grade masks should be reserved for health care providers and first responders. In general, even when not required by this Order, people are strongly encouraged to wear Face Coverings when in public. Also, for Face Coverings that are not disposed after each use, people should clean them frequently and have extra ones available so that they have a clean one available for use.
14. The intent of this Order is to ensure that all people who are visiting or working at Essential Businesses and all people who are seeking care at healthcare facilities or engaged in certain types of public transit or transportation with others wear a Face Covering to reduce the likelihood that they may transmit or receive the COVID-19 virus. The intent of this Order is also to ensure that people who work for or seek services from entities engaged in Essential Infrastructure work, Minimum Basic Operations, or Essential Government Functions also wear a Face Covering when they are in close proximity to others. In so doing, this Order will help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus and mitigate the impact of the virus on members of the public and on the delivery of critical healthcare services to those in need. All provisions of this Order must be interpreted to effectuate this intent.
15. 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.
16. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County offices at 701 Ocean St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (2) posted on the County Public Health Department website ([www.santacruzhealthservices.org](http://www.santacruzhealthservices.org)); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.
17. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

  
Gail Newel, MD  
Health Officer of the County of Santa Cruz

Dated: April 23, 2020

Approved as to Form:

  
Office of the County Counsel

Order of the County Health Officer  
Requiring Face Coverings