

# MONO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## Public Health Officer Order:

### Face Coverings For All While in Public

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**April 30, 2020**

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a crime punishable by fine of up to \$1,000, imprisonment for up to 90 days, or both. (California Health and Safety Code § 120295.) **This order supersedes and replaces the April 13, 2020, Order regarding Face Coverings for Essential Sector Workforce.**

WHEREAS, a state of emergency has been declared by the State of California, and local emergencies have been declared in both Mono County and in the Town of Mammoth Lakes, in response to the virus COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in Mono County, as well as throughout California and the nation, there are insufficient quantities of critical healthcare infrastructure, including hospital beds, ventilators and workers, capable of adequately treating mass numbers of patients at a single time – should the virus spread unchecked; and

WHEREAS, in direct response to that lack of healthcare infrastructure, governments across the nation are taking actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 in order to “flatten the curve” of infection and reduce the numbers of individuals infected at any one time by minimizing situations where the virus can spread; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of this effort, on March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20, which is attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated by this reference, requiring all persons residing in the State to remain in their homes or places of residence, except as needed to maintain the continuity of operations for critical infrastructure (the “Stay-at-Home Order”); and

WHEREAS, cloth face coverings are now recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to decrease COVID-19 transmission. Cloth face coverings are believed to decrease shedding of COVID-19 by people who are infected. Many people with COVID-19 infection have mild or even no symptoms. Such cases may unknowingly spread the virus to others and face coverings are intended to decrease the chance of such transmission; and

WHEREAS, in the coming weeks Mono County expects the Governor of California to modify the Stay At Home order to permit more economic and social activity. We know that disease transmission will increase as we move into the next phase and it is essential for the health of our community to continue to do everything we can to decrease coronavirus spread, including physical distancing, good hygiene practices and the using face coverings;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, effective immediately, under the authority of California Health and Safety Code sections 101040, 101085 and 120175 and Title 17 California

Code of Regulations, Section 2501, the Mono County Health Officer **HEREBY ORDERS** as follows:

1. Except as provided in subsection (a) below, all persons within Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes shall wear face coverings while engaging in any interactions with other people (**not including persons from their own household**) where it is not possible to maintain physical distance and in any situation where an individual could contaminate a surface or object with which other persons come in contact. This shall include all business and commercial transactions that are conducted in-person as opposed to “virtually”.
  - a. Face coverings are **not** required where:
    - i. A person is outdoors by themselves and unlikely to interact with other people except at a distance
      1. Yet it may be prudent and courteous to don a face covering when passing others on trails and sidewalks
    - ii. A person is the sole occupant of a vehicle or only sharing a vehicle with members of his or her own household
    - iii. A person is performing work in a room or location that is physically separated from other persons by walls or other impermeable barriers.
    - iv. Face coverings are not necessary when people are only in the company of members of their own household.
2. Persons working out-of-doors shall wear face masks when within six feet of any other person or in any situation where the individual could contaminate a surface or object with which other persons come in contact. In all other circumstances, persons working out-of-doors are strongly encouraged to wear face masks.
3. Retail and other businesses open to the public shall require customers or patrons to wear face coverings and of course all staff interacting with the public shall wear face coverings as well.
4. Employees at restaurants and other establishments providing for on-site food consumption (when authorized to open) shall wear face coverings. Patrons at those establishments are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings while not eating or drinking.

This Order shall be effective immediately and will remain in effect indefinitely, until rescinded by the Mono County Health Officer. It is expected that this order will remain in effect until the COVID-19 local health emergency declaration is lifted, which is likely to be done in concordance with the end of the State of California COVID-19 emergency declaration.

### **General Provisions**

1. This Order is issued as a result of the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 disease, also known as “novel coronavirus,” which has infected at least 529,591 individuals

worldwide in 175 countries and is implicated in over 23,970 worldwide deaths, including 21 cases and one death in Mono County.

2. This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 both within the County of Mono and worldwide, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approach to slow transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, as well as best practices as currently known and available to protect the public from the risk of spread of or exposure to COVID-19.

3. This Order is intended to reduce the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19, thereby slowing the spread of COVID-19 in communities worldwide. As the presence of individuals increases, the difficulty and magnitude of tracing individuals who may have been exposed to a case rises exponentially.

4. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the: March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom; the March 15, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency based on an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of novel COVID-19 in Mono County; the March 17, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mono proclaiming the existence of a Local Emergency in the County of Mono regarding COVID-19 and ratifying and extending the Declaration of Local Health Emergency due to COVID-19; the guidance issued on March 11, 2020 by the California Department of Public Health regarding large gatherings of 250 people or more; Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20 of March 12, 2020 preparing the State to commandeer hotels and other places of temporary residence, medical facilities, and other facilities that are suitable as places of temporary residence or medical facilities as necessary for quarantining, isolating or treating individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or who have had a high-risk exposure and are thought to be in the incubation period; the guidance issued on March 15, 2020 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health, and other public health officials through the United States and around the world recommending the cancellation of gatherings involving more than fifty (50) or more persons in a single space at the same time; the March 16, 2020 order of the Public Health Officer prohibiting all gatherings with expected presence above ten (10) individuals; and Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20 of March 19, 2020 ordering all persons to stay at home to protect the health and well-being of all Californians and to establish consistency across the state in order to slow the spread of COVID-19.

5. This Order is made in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, including but not limited to: Health and Safety Code sections 101030, et seq.; Health and Safety Code sections 120100, et seq.; and Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations section 2501.

6. To the extent necessary, 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 enforcement of this Order.

7. This Order is made because of the propensity of the virus to spread person-to-person and also because the virus is causing physical property loss or damage due to its proclivity to attach to surfaces for prolonged periods of time.

8. Copies of this Order shall promptly be posted on the County of Mono's Public Health Department's website (monohealth.com) and provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

*Thomas Boo, MD*

Date April 30, 2020

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Thomas Boo, MD  
Local Health Officer  
For Mono County  
and the Town of Mammoth Lakes