



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mono County Health Department

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www.monohealth.com/Coronavirus

IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT PHASE, MONO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER ORDERS FACE COVERINGS WHILE IN PUBLIC

May 1, 2020 – Effective immediately, face coverings are required to be worn by all individuals while in public spaces in Mono County to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Mono County Public Health Officer Dr. Tom Boo issued the Order in preparation of Governor Gavin Newsom modifying the statewide Stay-At Home Order in the coming weeks.

“If we can keep infection rates low through practicing social and physical distancing, keeping our hands clean, and covering our faces, it will allow us to live more normally,” stated Dr. Boo. “Coronavirus is going to be with us for some time, and with each step toward a more normal life we will see more infections. We must implement measures that assist in keeping new infection rates low to protect ourselves and our community.”

Individuals can be infected with COVID-19 and show no symptoms of illness, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of facial coverings as one way to reduce the chance of spreading the virus to someone else. Facial coverings primarily benefit others, but may also help protect the wearer from infection. A face covering or homemade mask that covers the nose and mouth can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, neck gaiters, or towels. Details on how to sew or make simple face coverings can be accessed online at: <https://coronavirus.monocounty.ca.gov/pages/health>.

“Distancing yourself from others, washing or sanitizing your hands frequently, and keeping coughs and sneezes to yourself are still the number one way to protect yourself and others. However, as the Stay-At-Home Order is modified, it may not be possible to completely keep our distance as we go about our daily lives. This is where facial coverings can help,” commented Dr. Boo.

The Mono County Public Health Order requiring the use of facial coverings while in public and interacting with people outside of your household unit is in effect through the end of the COVID-19 pandemic emergency declaration.

Facial coverings are not required under the following circumstances:

- A person is outdoors and unlikely to interact with people who are not members of their household unit, except at a distance of more than six feet. Though it is prudent and courteous to wear a face covering when passing others on trails, multi-use paths or sidewalks.
- A person is performing work in a room or location that is physically separated from other persons by walls or other impermeable barriers.
- When in the sole company of members of their own household unit.
- A person is the sole occupant of a vehicle or is sharing a vehicle only with members of his or her own household unit.

In addition, please note:

- Persons working outdoors shall wear face coverings 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 outdoors are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings.
- Retail and other businesses open to the public shall require customers or patrons to wear face coverings. All staff interacting with the public are required to wear face coverings.
- Employees at restaurants and other establishments providing for on-site food consumption (upon authorization to open) shall wear face coverings. Patrons at those establishments are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings while not eating or drinking.

Distance. Wash. Stay Home and #CoverUpMono!

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