

# MONO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## Public Health Officer Order:

### Face Coverings For All While in Public

P.O. BOX 3329, MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546 PHONE (760) 924-1830 • FAX (760) 924-1831

EMAIL RJOHNSON@ALPINECOUNTY.CA.GOV

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**August 6, 2021**

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 all previous Mono County Public Health Officer Orders regarding Face Coverings.**

WHEREAS, a state of emergency has been declared by the State of California, and a local emergency has been declared in Mono County in response to the virus COVID-19 (Coronavirus); and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2021, California fully reopened the economy, and the State terminated the restrictions on businesses and activities in its Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Epidemiologic evidence demonstrates that the rate of community transmission of COVID-19 and positivity rates have all substantially increased since the June 15, 2021 reopening; and

WHEREAS, since the state reopening, increased interactions among members of the public have resulted in an increased number of daily new COVID-19 cases in Mono County; daily cases have more than quadrupled since June 15, 2021. In addition, as of July 24, 2021, Mono County is reporting a 7-day daily average case rate of 15.3 cases per 100,000 people with a 7-day lag. Based upon Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicators and thresholds, this means that community transmission of COVID-19 within Mono County is now considered Substantial, and highly likely to increase during the coming days and weeks; and

WHEREAS, while a significant number of Mono County residents are fully vaccinated (i.e., two weeks or more have passed after the receipt of a second dose in a 2-dose series or 2 weeks or more after receipt of a single-dose vaccine) as of the date of this Order in Mono County, COVID-19 remains a concern to public health and safety and there are still a large number of individuals in the County who are not yet fully vaccinated, including children under 12 years old, who are not currently eligible to be vaccinated. Furthermore, variants of the virus that may spread more easily and/or cause more severe illness, including the Delta variant, are present in Mono County, impacting local residents and visitors, based on positive case reporting; and

WHEREAS, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, in Mono County, as well as throughout California and the nation, there have been insufficient quantities of critical healthcare infrastructure, including hospital beds, ventilators and workers, capable of adequately treating mass numbers of patients at a single time as the virus spread unchecked; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue to protect the community from COVID-19, in particular for those who are not fully vaccinated, this Order mainly aligns with the State Public Health Officer Order, dated June 11, 2021, as well as the July 28, 2021, Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings issued by the California Department of Public Health. The primary intent of this Order is to help slow and improve the Substantial level of community transmission here in Mono County, to align with recent State recommendations and to help mitigate and reduce the impact on Mono County, and its critical healthcare infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, face coverings have been recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to decrease COVID-19 transmission. 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, effective beginning August 6, 2021, 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 Acting Health Officer **HEREBY ORDERS** as follows:

1. All persons within Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes, regardless of vaccination status, shall wear face coverings<sup>1</sup> **while in indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and businesses** (examples include offices, retail, restaurants, theaters, family entertainment centers and meetings, among others).
2. Individuals, businesses, venue operators, or hosts of public indoor settings must require all patrons to wear masks, for all indoor settings, regardless of their vaccination status, and post clearly visible and easy to read signage at all entry points to communicate the masking requirements for patrons.
3. Recommendation: It is *recommended* that all persons wear face coverings while attending large outdoor public events.
4. The following individuals are exempt from wearing masks:
  - a. Persons younger than two years old. Very young children must not wear a mask because of the risk of suffocation.

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<sup>1</sup> The following list, informed by the California Department of Public Health <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Get-the-Most-out-of-Masking.aspx> and the Center for Disease Control <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html> are attributes of face coverings, or masks, needed to fulfill the requirements of this Order:

- A properly worn mask that completely covers the nose and mouth.
- Cloth masks should be made with two or more layers of a breathable fabric that is tightly woven (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source).
- Mask should be secured to the head with ties, ear loops, or elastic bands that go behind the head.
- Mask should fit snugly but comfortably against the side and bottom of the face.
- Mask should be a solid piece of material without slits, exhalation valves, or punctures.

- b. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a mask could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance.
- c. 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.
- d. Persons for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.

This Order shall take effect beginning on Friday, August 6, 2021 and will remain in effect until rescinded, in writing, by the Mono County Health Officer based on three consecutive weeks of adjusted case of below 6.9 per 100,000.

### **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 197 million individuals worldwide in 220 countries and is implicated in over 4.2 million worldwide deaths, including 1065 cases and five deaths 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 Mono County as well as, on a larger scale, to 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; all current applicable guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health, including but not limited to the June 11, 2021 California Public Health Officer Order and the July 28, 2021 California Department of Public Health Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings, and the Center for Disease Control recommendations on masking protocol.

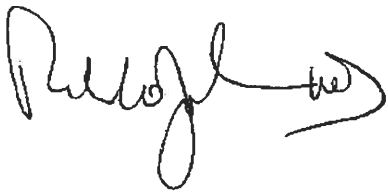
5. This Order is made in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, &

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.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Date: August 2, 2021

Richard Johnson, MD  
Acting Local Health Officer  
For Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes