

MONO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Public Health Officer Order:
Revision of Local Requirements for Facial Coverings in
Public in Order to Be Consistent with Recent State
Guidance

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

FAX (760) 924-1831 EMAIL TBOO@MONO.CA.GOV

June 29, 2020

This order updates and revises the Mono County mandate for face coverings in public places to be consistent with the recent State of California mandate, effective June 18, 2020. Violations of this order may be punishable by law.

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, 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, Stay At Home restrictions have been partially lifted, economic and social activity have increased, and coronavirus transmission is increasing in California and nationally; and

WHEREAS, physical distancing and hand/surface hygiene, with use of cloth face coverings when distancing is not possible decrease the chance of viral transmission from infected persons to others and will increase the likelihood that we can maintain substantial levels of economic activity; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has recently issued guidance mandating facial coverings in many situations, especially in most indoor situations when interacting with people who are not within one's household as well as outdoors when maintaining a safe distance is not possible. Some details of the state order differ from the existing Mono County order, which could cause confusion;

NOW, THEREFORE, effective immediately in Mono County including the Town of Mammoth Lakes, 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:

People in Mono County including the Town of Mammoth Lakes must wear face coverings (defined below) when they are in any of the following high-risk situations:

- Inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor public space;

- 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;
- 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;
- Working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
- Working in or walking through common indoor areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities or outdoors when numerous persons are present and safe distance cannot be maintained;
- 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, provided that 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. Medical masks, N-95, KN-95 and N-100 respirators are fully acceptable options. Face coverings can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. They can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. Cloth face coverings may be factory-made, sewn by hand or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

Face coverings made of mesh or with holes for the nose and mouth are not permissible in Mono County.

How well do cloth face coverings work to prevent spread of COVID-19?

There is increasing scientific evidence that use of cloth face coverings by the public during this pandemic, when physical distancing is not possible, can help reduce virus transmission. Cloth face coverings primarily reduce the release of infectious particles into the air when someone speaks, coughs, or sneezes, including someone who is infected with COVID-19 but feels well (surgical masks and respirators provide greater protection to the wearer than other cloth face coverings). Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing, washing hands, and staying home when ill, but are believed to be valuable when combined with these primary interventions.

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

General Provisions

1. This Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or revoked by the Mono County Health Officer. The Health Officer, in consultation with the Unified Command/Emergency Operations Center, will review this Order as necessary.
2. This Order is issued as a result of the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 disease, also known as “novel coronavirus,” which has infected millions of people worldwide with about half a million attributable deaths to date.
3. This Order is issued based on evidence of transmission of COVID-19, 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.
4. This Order is intended to reduce the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19, by referencing restrictions issued by the State of California and providing additional clarifications within the Town of Mammoth Lakes, 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.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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

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

Date June 29, 2020