

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

Office of the Sheriff

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Laurie Smith
Sheriff

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Staff

FROM: COVID-19 Incident Command Center

SUBJECT: ICC Directive 20-27 Face Coverings (Update)

DATE: 06/19/2020

The Incident Command Center continually reviews guidance offered by State and local Departments of Public Health and disseminates information by the use of Directives.

On 4-17-20, the Incident Command Center issued Directive 20-14 (Face Coverings), which mandated face coverings be worn to the greatest extent possible in all work settings, primarily where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Like most jails, concentrated numbers of staff and inmates cause a level of human congestion that is unparalleled in the community. Therefore, the wearing of a face-covering was made a requirement for all staff working in proximity to inmates/arrestees. Additionally, the ICC issued two face coverings to all employees to help promote Directive 20-14.

On 6-18-20, the California Department of Public Health issued an updated Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings (attached). The ICC and Sheriff's Office Command staff reviewed the language to assist with this Directive. We are required to follow State and County orders during this pandemic unless there is an exemption that applies to our profession or a specific function within our office. With that said there are few exemptions to this new order, which will require all employees to follow the highlights below. There are limited circumstances that allow for independent judgement of not wearing a face covering based on the circumstances an individual employee may be faced with. Read the attached State guidance for the entire language. Below are the highlighted areas of importance for our staff while on duty:

People of the State of California must wear face coverings when:

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

(Generally, staff will be required to wear a face covering while in the HQ or substation lobbies. The secured work areas of Sheriff's Office Buildings are not considered public spaces, unless such area is accessible by water delivery or mail delivery personnel. Masks are required to be worn in the areas where these members from the public would walk and access.)

- Engaged in work:
 - Working in or walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities;
 - In any room or enclosed area where other people are present when unable to physically distance;
 - 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 that time.

Although there are few exemptions to these requirements, officer safety and personal health take priority. The following exemptions are applicable to our Office. Please utilize sound judgement when deciding to wear a mask.

- If wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work.
- If engaged in outdoor work and are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others.

If a deputy assigned to work outdoors can maintain at least six feet of distance between the person(s) they are interacting with they are exempt from wearing a face covering. Absent this distancing requirement, the only other exemption would be if it is not feasible to put on a mask prior to taking an immediate enforcement action.

Please work together to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and be mindful of public image and our responsibility to not only educate the public on these health orders but also follow them.



SONIA Y. ANGELL, MD, MPH
State Public Health Officer & Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

June 18, 2020

GUIDANCE FOR THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS

Because of our collective actions, California has limited the spread of COVID-19 and associated hospitalizations and deaths in our state. Still, the risk for COVID-19 remains and the increasing number of Californians who are leaving their homes for work and other needs, increases the risk for COVID-19 exposure and infection.

Over the last four months, we have learned a lot about COVID-19 transmission, most notably that people who are infected but are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic play an important part in community spread. The use of face coverings by everyone can limit the release of infected droplets when talking, coughing, and/or sneezing, as well as reinforce physical distancing.

This document updates existing [CDPH guidance](#) for the use of cloth face coverings by the general public when outside the home. It mandates that face coverings be worn state-wide in the circumstances and with the exceptions outlined below. It does not substitute for existing guidance about social distancing and handwashing.

Guidance

People in California must wear face coverings when they are in the high-risk situations listed below:

- Inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor public space;¹
- 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;²
- 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;

¹ Unless exempted by state guidelines for specific public settings (e.g., school or childcare center)

² Unless directed otherwise by an employee or healthcare provider



- Working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
- Working in or walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities;
- 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, and when 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. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

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

There is scientific evidence to suggest that use of cloth face coverings by the public during a pandemic could help reduce disease transmission. Their primary role is to reduce the release of infectious particles into the air when someone speaks, coughs, or sneezes, including someone who has COVID-19 but feels well. Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing, washing hands, and staying home when ill, but they may be helpful when combined with these primary interventions.

When should I wear a cloth face covering?

You should wear face coverings when in public places, particularly when those locations are indoors or in other areas where physical distancing is not possible

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