



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 Emeline Ave., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962

TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: Call 711

### Public Health Division

#### ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS AND GENERAL SOCIAL DISTANCING

**Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code § 120295, *et seq.*; Cal. Penal Code §§ 69, 148(a)(1).)**

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:

1. This Order amends the April 23, 2020 Order of the Health Officer Generally Requiring Face Coverings. It requires the continued use of Face Coverings in order to further slow transmission of Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) and requires community members to continue following Social Distancing Requirements. This Order is based on evidence of increasing occurrence of COVID-19 within the County of Santa Cruz (“County”), the State of California, and the United States. The Order shall become effective immediately and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer. All individuals, businesses, and government agencies in the County are required to follow the provisions of this Order. This Order applies to all individuals present in the County, regardless of whether they reside in the County. Individuals who reside outside the County but are physically present within the County shall comply with this Order in all respects, regardless of the purpose of their presence. This Order applies to the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County as well as the cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Watsonville.
2. The Health Officer has determined that this Order, and her prior Orders, were and are necessary because COVID-19 is present in the County, is highly contagious, and is spread through respiratory droplets that are produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets may land on other people or be inhaled into their lungs, may land on and attach to surfaces where they remain for days, and may remain viable in the air for up to three hours, even after the infected person has left. When worn properly, Face Coverings have the potential to slow the spread of the virus by limiting the spread of these droplets. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Public Health now believe that wearing a Face Covering, when combined with physical distancing of at least 6 feet and frequent hand washing, may reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19 by reducing the spread of respiratory droplets. Moreover, the State of California has issued its own separate order and guidance requiring face coverings, available at [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings\\_06-18-2020.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings_06-18-2020.pdf).
3. As used in this Order, a “Face Covering” means a covering made of cloth, fabric or permeable materials, without holes, that covers only the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face. A covering that hides or obscures the wearer’s eyes or forehead is not a Face Covering. Examples of Face Coverings

include a scarf or bandana; a neck gaiter; a homemade covering made from a t-shirt, sweatshirt, or towel, held on with rubber bands or otherwise; or a mask. A Face Covering may be factory-made or may be handmade from ordinary household materials.

Note that any mask that incorporates a one-way valve (typically a raised plastic cylinder about the size of a quarter on the front or side of the mask) that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling is not a Face Covering under this order and is not to be used to comply with this Order's requirements. Valves of that type permit droplet release from the mask, putting others nearby at risk.

A video showing how to make a Face Covering and additional information about how to wear and clean Face Coverings may be found at the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

4. All members of the public, except as specifically exempted below, must wear a Face Covering in the following situations:
  - a. When inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor public space;
  - b. When 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, unless directed otherwise by an employee or healthcare provider;
  - c. When waiting for or riding on public transportation or paratransit or while in a taxi, private car service, or ride-sharing vehicle;
  - d. When engaging in work, whether at the workplace or performing work off-site, when:
    - i. interacting in person with any member of the public;
    - ii. interacting with another person through a car window or walk-up counter at any business, government agency, facility or location;
    - iii. working in any space visited by members of the public, such as by way of example and without limitation reception areas, grocery store or pharmacy aisles, service counters, public restrooms, cashier and checkout areas, waiting rooms, service areas, and other spaces used to interact with the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time;
    - iv. working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
    - v. working in or walking through common areas such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities; or
    - vi. in any room or enclosed area when other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present when unable to physically distance;<sup>1</sup>
  - e. When driving or operating any public transportation or paratransit vehicle, taxi, or private car service or ride-sharing vehicle, regardless of whether a member of the public is in the vehicle, due

---

<sup>1</sup> For clarity, a Face Covering is not required when a person is in a personal office (a single room) when others outside of that person's household are not present so long as the public does not regularly visit the room. By way of example and without limitation, a construction worker, plumber, bank manager, accountant, or bike repair person is not required to wear a Face Covering if that individual is alone and in a space not regularly visited by the public, but that individual must put on a Face Covering when coworkers are nearby, when being visited by a client/customer, and when anywhere members of the public or other coworkers are regularly present.

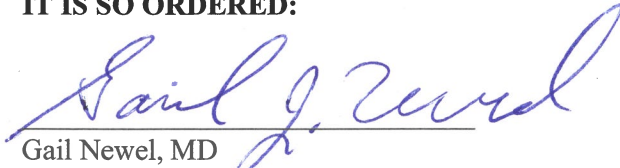
- to the need to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets in the vehicle; and
- f. While outdoors in public spaces when maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet from persons who are not members of the same household or residence is not feasible.
5. All businesses, government agencies, and other operations (except for healthcare operations, which are subject to their own regulations regarding specified Face Coverings) must:
    - a. Require their employees, contractors, owners, and volunteers to wear a Face Covering at the workplace and when performing work off-site any time the employee, contractor, owner, or volunteer is:
      - i. interacting in person with any member of the public;
      - ii. interacting with another person through a car window or walk-up counter at any business, government agency, facility or location;
      - iii. working in any space visited by members of the public, such as by way of example and without limitation reception areas, grocery store or pharmacy aisles, service counters, public restrooms, cashier and checkout areas, waiting rooms, service areas, and other spaces used to interact with the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time;
      - iv. working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
      - v. working in or walking through common areas such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities; or
      - vi. in any room or enclosed area when other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present when unable to physically distance.
    - b. Take reasonable measures, such as posting signs, to remind their customers and the public of the requirement that they wear a Face Covering while inside of or waiting in line to enter the business, facility, or location. Businesses, government agencies and other organizations must take all reasonable steps to prohibit entry to any member of the public who is not wearing a Face Covering and must not serve that person.
  6. Any child aged two years or less must not wear a Face Covering because of the risk of suffocation. Parents and caregivers must supervise use of Face Coverings by children to avoid misuse.
  7. Wearing a Face Covering is recommended but not required while engaged in outdoor exercise such as walking, hiking, bicycling, or running. When at a swimming pool or other body of water, a face covering is recommended when out of the water but should not be worn while swimming. However, each person engaged in such activity must comply with Social Distancing Requirements, including maintaining at least six feet of separation from all other people to the greatest extent possible. Additionally, it is recommended that each person engaged in such activity bring a Face Covering and wear that Face Covering in circumstances where it is difficult to maintain compliance with Social Distancing Requirements, and that they carry the Face Covering in a readily accessible location, such as around the person's neck or in a pocket, for such use. Because running or bicycling causes people to more forcefully expel airborne particles, making the usual minimum 6 feet distance less adequate, physical distance of greater than 6 feet should be maintained when engaging in these activities. People should avoid spitting in conjunction with exercise.
  8. This Order does not require any person to wear a Face Covering while driving alone, or exclusively with other members of the same family or household, in a motor vehicle.

9. A Face Covering is also not required by this Order to be worn by a particular individual if the person can show either: (1) a medical professional has advised that wearing a Face Covering may pose a risk to the person wearing the Face Covering for health-related reasons; or (2) 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. A Face Covering should also not be used by anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the Face Covering without assistance. **However, in order to preserve the safety of the public overall, this Order does not limit a business or government entity's ability to refuse in-person services to those individuals that are unable to wear a Face Covering for the reasons outlined above, as long as such services can reasonably be obtained another way.**
10. Face Coverings should be comfortable, so that the wearer can breathe comfortably through the nose and does not have to adjust it frequently, so as to avoid touching the face. For as long as medical grade masks such as N95 masks and surgical masks are in short supply, members of the public should not purchase those masks as Face Coverings under this Order; those medical grade masks should be reserved for health care providers and first responders. In general, even when not required by this Order, people are strongly encouraged to wear Face Coverings when in public. Also, for Face Coverings that are not disposed after each use, people should clean them frequently and have extra ones available so that they have a clean one available for use.
11. The intent of this Order is to ensure that all people who are visiting or working at businesses, government agencies and other operations and all people who are seeking care at healthcare facilities or engaged in certain types of public transit or transportation with others wear a Face Covering to reduce the likelihood that they may transmit or receive the COVID-19 virus. The intent of this Order is also to ensure that people who work for or seek services from businesses, government agencies and other operations also wear a Face Covering when they are in close proximity to others. In so doing, this Order will help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus and mitigate the impact of the virus on members of the public and on the delivery of critical healthcare services to those in need. All provisions of this Order must be interpreted to effectuate this intent.
12. In addition to the above, this Order reaffirms that all individuals are to continue complying with Social Distancing Requirements, which includes all of the following:
- a. Wearing a Face Covering in compliance with this Order;
  - b. Maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from individuals who are not part of the same household or living unit (except to the limited extent necessary to provide care, including childcare, adult or senior care, care to individuals with special needs, and patient care);
  - c. Frequently washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer that is recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as effective in combatting COVID-19;
  - d. Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or fabric or, if not possible, into the sleeve or elbow (but not into hands); and
  - e. Avoiding all social interaction outside the household when sick with a fever or cough.
13. 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 enforce this Order. The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.
14. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County offices at 701 Ocean St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (2) posted on the County Public Health Department website at

[www.santacruzhealthservices.org](http://www.santacruzhealthservices.org); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

15. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

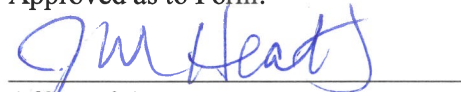
**IT IS SO ORDERED:**



Gail Newel, MD  
Health Officer of the County of Santa Cruz

Dated: June 24, 2020

Approved as to Form:



Office of the County Counsel