



## INYO COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH BRIEF

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Public Health Officer, Inyo County

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### INYO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER ORDER REQUIRING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND WORKERS TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS

Date Order Issued: May 8, 2020

**Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a crime punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code § 120295.)**

#### **SUMMARY OF THE ORDER:**

Governor Gavin Newsom recently issued Executive Order N-60-20, which permits the state to begin to move into "Stage 2" of reopening. Governor Newsom also recently permitted individual counties, who can self-certify that they have met certain public health criteria, to accelerate their progress into Stage 2 of reopening. The Inyo County Health Officer anticipates that these modifications may permit certain businesses within Inyo County to reopen, thereby increasing opportunities for the spread of COVID-19. In anticipation of these increased transmission opportunities and in an attempt to protect public health while also re-starting the County's economy, the Health Officer has ordered that members of the public that need to interact with other people outside their home wear a facial covering that covers the mouth and nose.

One key method of transmission of the COVID-19 virus is respiratory droplets that people expel when they breathe, cough, or sneeze. People infected with the virus may not have any symptoms, meaning they are asymptomatic, but they can still be contagious. People infected with the virus are contagious 48 hours before developing symptoms, the time when they are pre-symptomatic. Additionally, many people with the COVID-19 virus have mild symptoms and do not recognize that they are infected and contagious, and they can unintentionally infect others.

Therefore, the Inyo County Public Health Officer, along with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), 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 coronavirus when in public and engaged in essential or approved activities by reducing the spread of respiratory droplets. And, because it is not always possible to maintain at least 6 feet of distance, members of the public and workers should wear face coverings while engaged in essential activities and other activities when others are nearby. For clarity, although wearing a face covering is one tool for reducing the spread of the virus, doing so is not a substitute for sheltering in place, physical distancing of at least 6 feet, and frequent hand washing.

This Order includes certain exceptions. For instance, this Order does not require that children aged two years or younger wear a face mask, because of the risk of suffocation. This Order also does not apply to people who are in their own cars alone or with members of their own household. It also does not require people to wear face coverings while engaged in outdoor recreation such as walking, hiking, bicycling, or running, though it does recommend that they have a face covering with them, and still requires them to practice social distancing and other measures to protect against transmission of the virus.

The County Health Officer will continue to monitor the rate of COVID-19 disease spread, the severity of the resulting illnesses and deaths caused, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, and the effect of this Order. If needed, this Order may be expanded or otherwise modified to protect the public's health.

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE COUNTY OF INYO HEALTH OFFICER ORDERS:**

- 1) Effective immediately and continuing until modified or rescinded by further order of the Health Officer, all individuals in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County of Inyo (County) are required to wear a facial covering when they enter any indoor facility besides their residence, any enclosed open space, or while outdoors when the person is unable to maintain a six-foot distance from another person. "Indoor facilities" include, but are not limited to, businesses, government agencies, houses of worship, schools, and office buildings.
- 2) "Facial covering" means any fabric or cloth that covers the mouth and nose. The facial covering can be made using household items (including scarves, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, towels, turtlenecks, or other fabric), can be sewn by hand, or factory-made. Further guidance on facial coverings can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html> or here: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Face-Coverings-Guidance.aspx>. While medical-grade masks, such as surgical masks and N95 respirators, are included within the definition of "facial covering," persons should refrain from purchasing them, as they are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders coming into contact with infected persons.
- 3) Employees, contractors, owners, customers, and volunteers of all Essential Businesses allowed to remain in operation pursuant to Executive Order N-33-20 or of businesses that may resume operations in the future due to revised local or state orders must wear a facial covering in areas where the public is present or likely to be present, including:
  - a. Working or shopping in any space visited by members of the public, including but not limited to, 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;
  - b. Working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
  - c. Working in or walking through common areas such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities; or
  - d. When present in any room or enclosed area where other people (except member of the

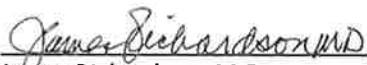
person's own household) are present and an individual cannot maintain a six-foot distance from another person.

- 4) Employers who continue to operate pursuant to Executive Order N-33-20 or that resume operations in the future due to revised local or state orders, and who require their employees to leave their residence to work must ensure that their employees comply with this Order while on duty by either (1) supplying employees with facial coverings or (2) ensuring that their employees are using their own facial coverings.
- 5) This Order shall not apply in the following situations:
  - a. When a person is driving in a car alone or with members of their households, unless the windows in the vehicle are lowered to interact with first responders, food service workers, or other persons who are not members of their households;
  - b. To children under age 2;
  - c. To anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, is otherwise unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, or for medical reasons, cannot safely wear a facial covering;
  - d. When walking, hiking, bicycling, running, or exercising in an outdoor space in which a person can keep 6 feet of distance from all individuals who are not a member of that person's household.
- 6) Proper facial covering hygiene shall be observed at all times by all individuals who must wear a facial covering pursuant to this Order. This includes:
  - a. Limiting touching of the face or the facial coverings;
  - b. Washing their hands before applying their facial covering, shortly after touching their facial coverings and after removing their facial covering;
  - c. Frequently washing or sanitizing the facial covering or properly discarding single-use facial coverings.
- 7) A governmental entity, business owner, or facility operator may refuse admission or service to any customer or visitor who refuses to wear facial coverings.
- 8) The Health Officer has determined that this Order, and its prior Orders, were and are necessary because cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Inyo County and because visitors may be entering Inyo County from other counties where COVID-19 is prevalent, particularly as Governor Newsom begins to relax state-level restrictions. COVID-19 is highly contagious and has a propensity to spread in various ways including, but not limited to, by attaching to surfaces or remaining in the air.
- 9) This order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the April 1, 2020 guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health recommending the use of masks to prevent the asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 (no. NR20-040); the March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom; the March 16, 2020 declaration by the Inyo County Health Officer of a local health emergency; and the March 17, 2020 declaration by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors of a local emergency.
- 10) Where a conflict exists between this Order and any state public health order related to controlling the spread of COVID-19 during this pandemic, the most restrictive provision controls.

Consistent with California Health and Safety Code section 131080, except where the State Health Officer may issue an order expressly directed at this Order or a provision of this Order and based upon a finding that a provision of this Order constitutes a menace to the public health, any more restrictive measures in this Order may continue to apply and control in the County of Inyo Public Health jurisdiction.

- 11) 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.
- 12) Pursuant to Sections 26602 and 41601 of the California Government Code and Section 101029 of the California Health and Safety Code, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in all cities located in the Inyo County Public Health jurisdiction ensure compliance with and enforcement of 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.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

  
James Richardson, M.D.  
Inyo County Public Health Officer

05/08/2020

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Date



**COVID-19 Response**

# Wearing Fabric Masks

**Wearing a fabric mask DOES NOT protect YOU from other people's germs  
It DOES help protect OTHERS from your germs**

**Fabric Masks Offer  
Some Protection**

**BUT**

**Additional Prevention  
Practices are Needed**



**WASH HANDS  
OFTEN**



**DISINFECT  
SURFACES**



**SOCIAL  
DISTANCING**



**STAY  
HOME**

## Wearing Reusable Face Masks



Wash/sanitize hands before putting on mask



Wear mask the same way each time: same side facing out



Mask needs to cover nose & mouth



Do not touch your mask while wearing it



If you touch your mask wash/sanitize hands immediately



Do not remove your mask to talk to others

## Removing Reusable Face Masks



Do not use dirty masks, wash between use



To remove mask take straps and pull forward



Wash/sanitize before and after removing mask



Place mask in plastic bag until ready to wash



Wash mask with hot water & detergent, dry completely before wearing

Read the CDC & Inyo County's guidance on how to make fabric masks

[Click Here](#) or scan QR code

or visit <https://www.inyocounty.us/covid-19>



**General Public SHOULD NOT USE  
medical masks including:**

**Surgical masks & N95 respirator masks**

**These masks should be saved for health care providers:**

**Doctors, nurses, hospital staff,  
first responders**