



## County of Sacramento

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# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Officer Order for Face Coverings Frequently Asked Questions May 22, 2020

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### Questions about the Order

**1. What does this Order do?**

The Sacramento County Public Health Officer is requiring residents of Sacramento County to wear face coverings whenever social distancing is not possible.

To read the full text of the Health Officer Order please go to:  
<https://www.saccounty.net/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx> or  
[www.dhs.saccounty.net/PUB](http://www.dhs.saccounty.net/PUB)

**2. When does this Order take effect?**

The Order goes into effect at 12:01 a.m. on May 22, 2020.

**3. How long will this Order last?**

There is no end date for the Face Covering Order. The Order will remain in effect until the Health Officer determines it is no longer needed.

**4. Why do I need to wear a face covering?**

There is evidence that some people infected with COVID-19 show no symptoms but can still spread the virus to others. Using a face covering over your nose and mouth along with social distancing and hand washing can help stop the spread of the virus in your community.

**5. Does this mean the Stay at Home Order is no longer in effect?**

No, the Face Covering Order does not change the Stay at Home Order. It is still very important for people to stay at home as much as possible and to maintain social distancing and practice good hand hygiene to prevent and reduce spread of the virus.

## **Questions for Residents**

### **1. When do face coverings need to be worn?**

Face coverings should be worn any time social distancing of 6 feet or more is not possible – both indoors and outdoors. Additionally, face coverings should be worn in public places such as grocery stores and when using public transit or ride-sharing services. Drivers of any public transportation or paratransit vehicle, taxi, private car service or ride-share vehicle must wear a face covering at all times while operating the vehicle.

Face coverings are not required for people driving alone or with other members of their household in a private vehicle.

### **2. What type of face covering should be worn?**

A face covering is made of cloth or other soft material without holes that covers nose, mouth and chin. Examples of items that can be used include: scarves, bandanas, neck gaiters, and homemade cloth face coverings.

For an example on making your own cloth face covering, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

### **3. What type of face covering should NOT be worn?**

There are many options for face coverings but items to avoid include:

- N95 respirators and surgical masks – these are in short supply and need to be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders.
- A face covering that has holes in it including those with one-way valves
- A face covering that hides the eyes

### **4. Do I still need to maintain a 6 foot distance while wearing a face covering?**

Yes. The CDC still recommends that people stay at least 6 feet apart whenever possible, even if you are wearing a face covering. It is important to practice all preventive measures as often as we can for the best protection.

### **5. Who is exempt from wearing a face covering?**

The following individuals are not required to wear a face covering:

- Children under the age of two should not wear face coverings due to the risk of suffocation. Children over the age of two should only wear face coverings with

adult supervision. More information can be found here:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/chest-lungs/Pages/Cloth-Face-Coverings-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx>

- Anyone who has been advised by a medical professional that they should not wear a mask for health reasons.
- Anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- Workers for whom wearing a mask would create a risk according to local, state or federal regulation and workplace safety policies.

#### **6. What is the correct way to wear a face covering?**

First, it is important to wash your hands before putting on the face covering as well as after you remove it. Here are some additional guidelines for face coverings:

- Make sure it covers your nose and mouth
- The face covering should fit snugly but comfortably and be secured with ties or loops around the ears
- You should be able to breathe through the mask
- Avoid touching the covering once it is on your face
- Avoid touching the front of the covering when you remove it
- Be sure to wash the covering after use

#### **7. How do I clean a fabric face covering?**

Cloth face coverings should be washed regularly depending on how often they are worn. Wash with hot water and detergent.

#### **8. Can I be refused entry to an essential business (grocery store, bank, pharmacy etc.) if I am not wearing a face covering?**

Yes. Face coverings should be worn in public places such as grocery stores, banks and pharmacies. Businesses may refuse service to individuals who are not wearing a face covering with the exception of those in exempted groups.

## **Questions for Businesses & Workers**

### **1. What is the requirement for businesses and workers?**

If workers are unable to maintain a minimum 6 foot distance from co-workers and customers, then a face covering that covers the nose and mouth is required. However, it is strongly recommended that workers and customers wear face coverings at all times.

### **2. Is my business required to provide face coverings for employees?**

Businesses are not required to provide face coverings to their employees. However, providing them to employees and customers who do not have them can be seen as good business practice that promotes the safety of employees and customers, as well as the community.

### **3. What are the requirements for my business? Can I refuse service to customers who are not wearing a face covering?**

Businesses must inform customers and post signage about requirements for face coverings. Businesses may refuse service to customers who are not wearing a face covering as long as they are not in an exempted group (children under age two, those with health conditions etc.).

### **4. Are all workers and volunteers at essential businesses required to wear a face covering while working?**

If proper social distancing of a minimum of 6 feet is not possible and it is not a risk to safety, then all employees and volunteers are required to wear a face covering while working.

### **5. Are there any exemptions for employees of essential businesses?**

Workers for whom wearing a mask would create a risk according to local, state or federal regulation and workplace safety policies are exempt.