



## For immediate release:



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**From:** Public Information Officer Lori Beatley

### **State Issues Guidance on Mandatory Face Covering in Public**

On June 18, 2020, California Department of Public Health issued a state-wide guidance for mandatory face covering while in public places. The guidance can be located on Plumas County website at [www.plumascounty.us](http://www.plumascounty.us) under the COVID-19 tab. According to the state, "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 guidance mandates that face covering be worn state-wide in the following circumstances:

- 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 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 people are **exempt** (do not have to wear) 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.

**Note:** Persons who do not have to wear 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.

Due to the state-wide mandatory face covering while in public, Plumas County Health Officer Dr. Mark Satterfield will rescind his order for mandatory face covering while in public which was issued on May 6, 2020, in order to follow the mandatory guidance issued by the state. Therefore, the Plumas County Health Officer order issued on May 6, 2020, is no longer in effect, instead the state-wide mandatory face covering guidance is in effect for Plumas County.

In order to continue to protect the health of our community it is critical that we all do our part by staying home and avoiding travel when possible, practicing physical distancing, wearing face coverings while in public, and using universal precautions; including washing hands and covering mouths with an elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Exposure to COVID-19 can be minimized if all precautions are practiced by all residents.

For additional information, please visit Plumas County website: [www.plumascounty.us](http://www.plumascounty.us) or call 530-283-6400 or send e-mail to [COVID19@countyofplumas.com](mailto:COVID19@countyofplumas.com)