

HEALTH OFFICER ORDER NO. 2020-10.7  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

FOR THE CONTROL OF COVID-19  
FACE COVERINGS  
WITHIN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Health Officer Order No. 2020-10.7 Supersedes and Replaces Health Officer Order No.  
2020-10.6

**Effective Date: December 24, 2020, 5:00pm PDT**

(Changes are underlined.)

**Please read this Order carefully.** Violation of or failure to comply with this Order may constitute a misdemeanor punishable by fine of up to \$1,000, imprisonment, or both. (Health and Safety Code §§ 101029, 120295 et seq.) Violators are also subject to civil enforcement actions including fines or civil penalties per violation per day, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and costs.

This Health Officer Order No. 2020-10.7 supersedes and replaces Health Officer Order No. 2020-10.6 that was effective November 25, 2020. Nothing in this Health Officer Order No. 2020-10.7 supersedes State Executive Orders or State Health Officer Orders or guidance provided by the California Department of Public Health available at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx#>

**Summary: As required by the State Public Health Officer on November 16, 2020 this Health Officer Order orders individuals in the County of Santa Barbara to wear face coverings at all times when outside the home, with some exceptions, to control the spread of COVID-19.**

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency for conditions caused by a novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, and on March 12, 2020, the County of Santa Barbara declared a local emergency and a local health emergency in relation COVID-19 in the community; and

WHEREAS, there has been significant community-based transmission in California; and

WHEREAS, in the County of Santa Barbara as well as throughout California and the nation, there are insufficient quantities of critical healthcare infrastructure, including hospital beds, ventilators and workers, capable of adequately treating mass numbers of patients at a single time – should the virus spread unchecked; and

WHEREAS, in direct response to the lack of healthcare infrastructure, governments across the nation are taking actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 in order to “flatten the curve” of infection and reduce the numbers of individuals infected at any one time by minimizing situations where the virus can spread; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of this effort, on March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 requiring all persons residing in the State to remain in their homes or places of residence, except as needed to maintain the continuity of operations for critical infrastructure (the "State Stay-at-Home Order"); and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-60-20 to allow reopening of lower-risk businesses and spaces in stages. On May 7, 2020, the State Public Health Officer ordered that upon certification of a variance application a County could move through the stages of reopening at their own pace. On May 20, 2020, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) approved the County of Santa Barbara's Variance Attestation; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2020, and revised on June 29, 2020, the CDPH mandated people in California to wear face coverings when they are in high-risk situations; and

WHEREAS, on August 28, 2020 the State Public Health Officer ordered an update to the framework for COVID-19 response, which is known as California's Plan for Reducing COVID-19 and Adjusting Permitted Sector Activities to Keep Californians Healthy and Safe. Governor Newsom introduced this framework as the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, in which counties are assigned into risk-based tiers based on the COVID-19 epidemiological information for each county; and

WHEREAS, as of November 17, 2020, within the State COVID-19 reopening framework the State classified the County of Santa Barbara as Tier One ("purple" or "widespread risk") which is more restrictive than what was previously allowed in Tier Two ("red" or "substantial risk"), that the County was in, between September 29, 2020 through November 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as of December 6, 2020, within the State COVID-19 reopening framework the State classified the Southern California Region, of which Santa Barbara County is a part, as subject to the Regional Stay At Home Order due to intensive care unit bed availability of less than 15% throughout the region, with additional restrictions placed on the County as a result; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the CDPH find the use of face coverings may reduce asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 and reinforce physical distancing, and that wearing a face covering combined with physical distancing of at least six feet, and frequent hand washing, will lessen the risk of COVID-19 transmission by limiting the spread of respiratory droplets; and

WHEREAS, the County Health Officer finds (1) a significant portion of individuals with COVID-19 are asymptomatic and can transmit the virus to others; (2) those who may develop symptoms can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms; (3) scientific evidence shows COVID-19 is easily spread and public activities can result in transmission of the virus; (4) face coverings are necessary because COVID-19 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 is no longer present; (5) when worn properly, face coverings have the potential to slow the spread of the virus by limiting the spread of respiratory

droplets; and (6) distinctions made in this Order are to minimize the spread of COVID-19 that could occur through proximity and duration of contact between individuals; and

WHEREAS, the intent of this Order is to temporarily require the use of Face Coverings to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Santa Barbara County to the maximum extent possible. All provisions of this Order should be interpreted to effectuate this intent.

**ACCORDINGLY, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, TITLE 17 CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS SECTION 2501, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA ORDERS:**

1. This Order 2020-10.7 is effective 5:00 p.m. (PDT) December 24, 2020 and continuing until 5:00 p.m. (PDT), on January 22, 2020 or until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the County of Santa Barbara Health Officer ("Health Officer"). This Order applies in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County ("County").
2. As used in this Order, a "face covering" means a covering made of a variety of materials such as cloth, fabric, cotton, silk, linen, or other permeable materials, that fully covers the tip of a person's nose and mouth, without holes, including cloth face masks, surgical masks, towels, scarves, and/or bandanas. This Order does not require the public to wear medical-grade masks, including masks rated N95, KN95, and their equivalent or better.

A face covering with a one-way valve (typically a raised plastic cylinder about the size of a quarter on the front or side of the mask) that provides a preferential path of escape for exhaled breath shall not be used as a face covering under this Order because the valve permits respiratory droplets to easily escape which places others at risk.

3. People in the County shall wear face coverings when they are outside of the home, unless an exemption applies.
4. The following individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings in the following specific settings:
  - a. Persons in a car alone or solely with members of their own household.
  - b. Persons who are working in an office or in a room alone.
  - c. Persons who are actively 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.
  - d. Persons who are outdoors and maintaining at least 6 feet of social distancing from others not in their household. Such persons must have a face covering with them at all times and must put it on if they are within 6 feet of others who are not in their household.
  - e. 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.
  - f. Workers who are required to wear respiratory protection.

- g. Persons who are specifically exempted from wearing face coverings by other CDPH guidance.
5. The following individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings at all times:
    - a. Persons younger than two years old. These very young children must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation.
    - b. 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. Such conditions are rare.
    - c. 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.
    - d. 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.
  6. Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
  7. If you cannot afford a face covering one will be provided to you free-of-charge at the following locations:
    - a. Santa Barbara County Administration building lobby, 105 E Anapamu St, Santa Barbara
    - b. Santa Barbara Health Care Center, 345 Camino del Remedio, Santa Barbara
    - c. Santa Maria Health Care Center, 2115 Centerpointe Parkway, Santa Maria
    - d. Face coverings may also be available by calling 211 to access offers by community groups at no cost.
    - e. The Health Officer requests cities within the County of Santa Barbara provide face coverings free-of-charge to those cannot afford them.

This Order is issued as a result of the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 which has infected at least 75,665,096 individuals worldwide, in 218 countries and territories, including 14,190 cases, and 145 deaths in the County, and is implicated in over 1,674,999 worldwide deaths.

This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 both within the County and worldwide, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approach to slow transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, as well as best practices as currently known and available to protect the public from the risk of spread of or exposure to COVID-19.

This Order is issued because of the propensity of the virus to spread person to person and also because the virus physically is causing property loss or damage due to its proclivity to attach to surfaces for prolonged periods of time.

This Order is intended to reduce the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19, thereby slowing the spread of COVID-19 in communities worldwide. As the presence of individuals increases, the difficulty and magnitude of tracing individuals who may have been exposed to a case rises exponentially.

This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference: the March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom; the March 12, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency and Proclamation of Emergency based on an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of novel COVID-19 in the County; the March 17, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors ratifying the County Declaration of Local Health Emergency and Proclamation of Emergency regarding COVID-19; the guidance issued on March 11, 2020 by the California Department of Public Health regarding large gatherings of 250 people or more; Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20 of March 12, 2020 preparing the State to commandeer hotels and other places of temporary residence, medical facilities, and other facilities that are suitable as places of temporary residence or medical facilities as necessary for quarantining, isolating or treating individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or who have had a high-risk exposure and are thought to be in the incubation period; the March 13, 2020 Presidential Declaration of a National Emergency due to the national impacts of COVID-19; the guidance issued on March 15, 2020 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health, and other public health officials through the United States and around the world recommending the cancellation of gatherings involving more than fifty (50) or more persons in a single space at the same time; the March 16, 2020 order of the State Public Health Officer prohibiting all gatherings with expected presence above ten (10) individuals; Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20 of March 19, 2020 ordering all persons to stay at home to protect the health and well-being of all Californians and to establish consistency across the state in order to slow the spread of COVID-19; the March 22, 2020, Presidential Declaration of a Major Disaster in California beginning on January 20, 2020 under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Incident DR-4482-CA; and, Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-60-20 of May 4, 2020 to allow reopening of lower-risk businesses and spaces ("Stage Two"), and then to allow reopening of higher-risk businesses and spaces ("Stage Three"), and directing the Public Health Officer to establish criteria and procedures to determine whether and how particular local jurisdictions may implement public health measures that depart from the statewide directives of the State Public Health Officer; the July 13, 2020 State Public Health Officer Order; the August 28 State Public Health Officer Order regarding California's Plan for Reducing COVID-19 and Adjusting Permitted Sector Activities to Keep Californians Healthy and Safe (also known as the Blueprint for a Safer Economy); the November 16, 2020 California Department of Public Health Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings; the December 3, 2020 State Public Health Officer's Regional Stay At Home Order; and the December 6, 2020 State Public Health Officer's Supplement to the State Regional Stay At Home Order.

This Order is made in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, including but not limited to: Health and Safety Code sections 101040 and 120175; Health and Safety Code sections 101030 et seq., 120100 et seq.; and Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations section 2501.

If any provision of this Order or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held

to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, 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.

The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes a threat to public health. Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code sections 101029 and 120295, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order. Per Health and Safety Code section 101029, "the sheriff of each county, or city and county, may enforce within the county, or the city and county, all orders of the local health officer issued for the purpose of preventing the spread of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease. Every peace officer of every political subdivision of the county, or city and county, may enforce within the area subject to his or her jurisdiction all orders of the local health officer issued for the purpose of preventing the spread of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease. This section is not a limitation on the authority of peace officers or public officers to enforce orders of the local health officer. When deciding whether to request this assistance in enforcement of its orders, the local health officer may consider whether it would be necessary to advise the enforcement agency of any measures that should be taken to prevent infection of the enforcement officers."

Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County Public Health Department; (2) posted on the County Public Health Department's website (publichealthsb.org); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Henning Ansorg, M.D.  
Health Officer  
Santa Barbara County Public Health Department