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**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER  
OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT REQUIRING MEMBERS OF THE  
PUBLIC TO WEAR FACIAL COVERINGS**

**DATE OF ORDER: April 21, 2020**  
**EFFECTIVE APRIL 24, 2020 UNTIL RESCINDED**

**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.)**

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, and 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT ("HEALTH OFFICER") ORDERS:

1. This Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer or the State Health Officer.
2. California is in a State of Emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a substantial danger to the health of the public within the County of Humboldt ("County"). COVID-19 can easily spread between persons who are in close contact with one another. This Order is based on scientific evidence and best practices as currently known from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State of California, and the Humboldt County Health Officer. This Order is intended to protect vulnerable members of the public from avoidable risk of serious illness or death resulting from exposure to COVID-19.
3. The age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the County places it at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Persons have been shown to be infectious up to 48 hours before onset of symptoms, and as many as 50% of infections seem to occur in asymptomatic persons. All persons who contract COVID-19, regardless of their level of symptoms (none, mild, or severe), may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk. Currently, there is no vaccine available to protect against COVID-19 and no specific treatment.
4. COVID-19 is spread through respiratory droplets that are produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of others who are nearby, or can be inhaled into their lungs. COVID-19 has been shown to attach to surfaces for days and remain viable in the air for up to three hours after the infected person has left. When properly worn by the user, facial coverings used in conjunction with physical distancing of at least 6 feet and frequent handwashing, may reduce the risk of transmission



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of this virus by limiting the spread of these droplets. Even a small reduction in community transmission could make a major difference to the demand on the healthcare system.

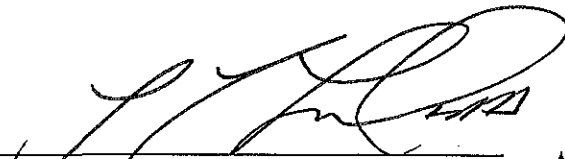
5. This Order also is issued in light of the existence of 52 cases of COVID-19 in the County as of April 21, 2020.
6. The Health Officer has determined that this Order, and its prior Orders, were and are necessary because cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed throughout Humboldt County. COVID-19 is highly contagious and has a propensity to spread in various ways including, but not limited to, by attaching to surfaces or remaining in the air, resulting in physical damage and/or physical loss.
7. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the Health Officer Shelter in Place Order issued on March 30, 2020; the California Department of Public Health Face Covering Guidance issued on April 1, 2020; and the Health Officer Recommendation on Face Coverings issued on April 3, 2020.
8. All persons shall wear facial coverings before 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 at all times.
9. This Order does not apply when the person is driving 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. Persons should refrain from purchasing medical-grade masks, such as surgical masks and N95 respirators; those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders coming into contact with infected persons.
10. Facial coverings mean any fabric or cloth that covers the mouth and nose without holes. 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. 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 at risk. Further guidance on facial coverings could be found here:
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
  - <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Face-Coverings-Guidance.aspx>
11. Facial coverings should not be placed on children under age 2 or on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the facial coverings without assistance.
12. Facial coverings are meant to protect the public from the user in case the user is infected and not yet displaying symptoms. Facial coverings are not a substitute for social distancing.



13. The user should limit touching their face or their facial coverings, and should wash their hands before applying their facial covering, shortly after touching their facial coverings and after removing their facial covering.
14. Facial coverings should be frequently washed or sanitized for the health and safety of the user and others. Single-use facial coverings must be properly discarded into trash receptacles.
15. Employers who continue to operate, pursuant to the Health Officer Shelter in Place Order issued on March 30, 2020, and who require their employees to leave their residence to work or provide a service shall ensure that their employees comply with this Order while on duty by either (1) supplying employees with facial coverings, or (2) ensuring that employees have access to facial coverings, or (3) ensuring that their employees are using their own facial coverings.
16. Each driver or operator of any public transportation or paratransit vehicle, taxi, or private care service or ride-sharing vehicle must wear a Face Covering while driving or operating such vehicle, regardless of whether a member of the public is in the vehicle, due to the need to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets in the vehicle
17. A governmental entity or business owner or operator may to the extent authorized by law, refuse admission or service to any customer or visitor who fails to wear facial coverings.
18. Business includes any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entity, whether a corporate entity, organization, partnership or sole proprietorship, and regardless of the nature of the service, the function it performs, or its corporate or entity structure.
19. 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 a threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.
20. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) posted on the County website and (2) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.
21. If any provision of this Order to the application thereof 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. The provisions of this Order are severable.

Date Issued: 4/21/2020

Time: 1:55 PM

By:   
Teresa Frankovich, MD MPH  
Health Officer, County of Humboldt

