

UPDATE: Health Officer of County of Contra Costa Order to Wear Face Coverings**INTRODUCTION**

On April 17, 2020, the Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa issued Order No. HO-COVID19-08 requiring people to wear face coverings in certain circumstances. The intent of the Order is “to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 virus and mitigate the impact of the virus on members of the public and on the delivery of critical healthcare services to those in need.” The Order took effect at 8:00 a.m. today. This memorandum summarizes the provisions of Order No. HO-COVID19-08 as it relates to Essential Government Functions, Essential Business Operations, and Public Recreation provisions.

DISCUSSION

The Order mandates that all entities and organizations with workers engaged in Essential Government Functions (except for Healthcare Operations, which are subject to their own regulation regarding specified face coverings), Essential Businesses, Essential Infrastructure work, or Minimum Basic Operations, require their employees, contractors, owners, and volunteers to wear a face covering at the workplace and when performing work off-site, under the circumstances provided in the chart below. The Order further mandates that people wear face covering while inside of or waiting in line to enter Essential Businesses, and other businesses engaged in Minimum Basic Operations, providing Essential Infrastructure, and providing Essential Government Functions (except Healthcare Operations), when seeking healthcare from Healthcare Operations, and when waiting for or riding on public transportation and other shared transportation.

“Face Covering” is defined as a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers only the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face (e.g. scarf, bandana, neck gaiter, homemade covering from t-shirt, or towel). Any mask that includes a one-way valve is insufficient and cannot be used as a face covering to comply with this Order.

Locations	Face Covering required:	Face Covering not required when:	Additional Requirements
Essential Government Functions; and Essential Businesses	Required by <u>all members of the public</u> when: (i) Inside of, or in line to enter, any Essential Business, including, but not limited to, grocery stores, convenience stores, supermarkets; laundromats, and restaurants; (ii) Inside or at any location or facility engaging in Minimum Basic Operations or seeking or receiving Essential Government Functions; (iii) using public transit. Required by <u>employees, contractors, owners, and volunteers</u> when:	A person is in a personal office (a single room) when others outside of that person’s household are not present as long as the public does not regularly visit the room.	(i) Take reasonable measures, such as posting signs, to remind customers and the public of the requirement to wear Face Coverings while inside or waiting in line to enter the business, facility, or location; (ii) Take reasonable steps to prohibit any member of the public who is not wearing a Face Covering from entering and must not serve that person if those efforts are unsuccessful and seek to remove that person.

	<p>(i) Interacting in person with any member of the public;</p> <p>(ii) Working in any space visited by members of the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time (e.g. 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);</p> <p>(iii) Working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;</p> <p>(iv) Working in or walking through common areas such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities; or</p> <p>(v) In any room or enclosed area when other people (except for members of the person’s own household or residence) are present.</p>		
Public Recreation	Face Covering not required.	Not required, but recommended while people engage in outdoor recreation such as walking, hiking, bicycling, or running.	<p>(i) Each person must still comply with six feet social distancing requirements;</p> <p>(ii) It is recommended that each person bring a Face Covering and wear it when it is difficult to maintain compliance with social distancing requirements; and carry the Face Covering in a readily accessible location;</p> <p>(iii) Runners and cyclists must take steps to avoid exposing others to airborne particles, which includes: wearing a Face Covering when possible; crossing the street when running to avoid sidewalks with pedestrians; slowing down and moving to the side when unable to leave the sidewalk and nearing other people; never spitting; and avoiding running or cycling directly in front of or behind another runner or cyclist who is not in the same household.</p>

The Order also provides exceptions for when a face covering is not required, including:

- When driving alone, or exclusively with other members of the same family or household;
- If a person can show that a medical professional has advised that wearing a Face Covering may pose a risk to the person wearing the mask for health-related reasons;
- If a person can show that 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;
- If a child is aged twelve years or less.

Furthermore, a face covering should not be used by anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance; and must not be used by a child aged two years, or younger because of risk of suffocation.