

Mendocino County Public Health



Summary of Changes: Health Officer's Shelter-In-Place and Facial Coverings Orders Dated April 24, 2020, Effective Until May 10, 2020

Shelter-in-Place Order

Essential Activities are clarified and expanded.

- In addition to being permitted to walk, jog, hike or bike from one's residence, recreation may also be initiated from within a twenty (20) mile drive of one's residence.
- The Order adds that healthcare personnel, first responders, and disaster service workers who are returning to Mendocino County, should either quarantine for 14 days or follow the specific CDC guidance for healthcare personnel.

Essential Businesses must still maintain and post their Social Distancing Protocols, taking into account that mitigation efforts are strengthened by the use of facial coverings as addressed in the Health Officer's separate Orders regarding Facial Coverings.

For live-streaming of events, the Order is revised to clarify that singing and similar activities are permissible, provided that venues take protective measures to ensure that additional risks of transmission of COVID-19 are mitigated, such as through use of plexiglass screens between singers in the same venue, proper ventilation, distancing greater than six feet, and ensuring singers are not positioned face-to-face.

Facial Coverings Order

By a separate new Order on Facial Coverings, the Health Officer has also required that all persons, (except for young children under 2 and for those for whom it is not advised for health-related reasons) wear facial coverings (fabric or cloth that covers the nose and mouth) before they enter any indoor facility besides their residence, any enclosed open space, or while outdoors when unable to maintain a six-foot distance from another person. Please note that facial coverings should not be placed on any child under age 2 years. However, it is recommended (with parent/caregiver supervision) for those ages 2-12.

The Order also requires employers to ensure that their employees working out of the home comply with the facial coverings order while on duty. However, facial coverings are not required for those who work alone in a space not regularly visited by the public (such as a private office). Additionally, facial coverings are not required for those who work within a stable group of the same individuals provided that they: (1) do not interact with the public, (2) do not perform the handling, preparation, or packaging of food, (3) work in a location that is closed to the public, (4) are part of a stable working group (typically not more than 12); and (5) are working in conditions where they are not likely to come into

contact with others outside the stable group while at work. For such workers meeting this criteria, an employer may adopt a protocol to allow those in such stable working groups to work without a facial covering.

The Facial Coverings Order also allows business owners or operators (to the extent not otherwise prohibited by law) to refuse admission or service to any customer or visitor who fails to wear a facial covering. However, a facial covering should not be required for individuals if they cannot reasonably wear a mask due to barriers to access or proper usage.

The Facial Covering Order addresses how facial coverings should be handled during certain public recreational activities. When engaging in recreational activities in public, it is recommended that everyone bring a facial covering with them in a safe and accessible location and wear that facial covering where it is difficult to compliance with social distancing requirements. For some public recreational activities which cause people to more forcefully expel airborne particles, the six feet social distance requirement may not be enough and may call for additional measures such as wearing a facial covering when others are more than six feet away, safely crossing the street to avoid pedestrians on the sidewalk when running, and never spitting.

Finally, the Facial Covering Order also adopts the same recommendations for use and care as in the original guidance from April 3, 2020, and reiterates that facial coverings are an additional tool for mitigation of the disease (and not a substitute for required minimum social distancing).