



MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: (707) 463-4441

TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA

FR: MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Ukiah, California: 4/3/2020

County Health Officer Issues New Guidance on Face Coverings for General Public and Social Distancing Protocol for Businesses

New information from the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and [California Department of Public Health](#) (CDPH) on the spread of COVID-19 now suggests that the widespread use of face coverings may help protect our community. Because of this, **the Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan recommends that everyone who leaves their home for an essential activity wears a face covering, such as a mask, scarf, bandana, or similar garment.** Most importantly, everyone should continue to remain home except for when conducting essential activities, and practice social distancing of 6 feet when outside of their homes, in addition to frequent hand washing.

Protect your Community

Ordinary face coverings have not been proven to protect the wearer. When worn by someone with COVID-19, however, they may reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others. Since not everyone with COVID-19 knows that they are sick, wearing a face covering helps make sure that you are not unknowingly affecting others. If worn by everyone when outside the home doing essential activities, this can help slow the overall spread of the virus and keep our community safer.

Protect your Medical Providers

Use the best face covering that you can, but save purchasing new surgical masks and protective equipment for the professionals. Our healthcare providers are bravely working through this emergency to protect the rest of us. To do so, however, they need personal protective equipment, and supplies are limited. Surgical masks, unexpired N95 masks, and other essential protective equipment is not recommended for everyday use at this time, unless you already have a supply at home for personal use.

Protect your Self

Please follow all guidance on the use of face coverings below and continue to practice social distancing. Face coverings are only one small part of the overall effort to slow the

spread of COVID-19. Everyone should continue to stay home, except for essential activities, and take every precaution when going out, including frequent hand washing, social and physical distancing of 6 feet, and other appropriate measures.

Recommended Face Covering Usage:

General Public Participating in Essential Activities while Following Required Social Distancing: Use a cloth face covering that covers the nose and mouth, such as a bandana, a scarf, neck gaiter, or a homemade cover. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand, or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels. The public should continue to use physical and social distancing at any time that they leave home for an essential activity. Patterns for home-made/sewn face coverings can be found on the internet, for example: <https://santacruz.ideafablab.com/masks/>

Recommended Social Distancing Protocol for Businesses:

Essential businesses operating in Mendocino County are urged to implement a Social Distancing Protocol for each facility. This looks like:

- Using signage at each entrance to urge all to practice social distancing, and to not enter the facility if they are sick
- Ensuring that work stations are separated by at least 6 feet
- Using tape to give customers points on which to stand to ensure social distancing
- Using clear glass or plastic shields to protect public-facing employees
- Limiting the number of individuals permitted into a facility at a time
- Providing disinfecting wipes near shopping carts and baskets

An example of Social Distancing Protocol for Essential Businesses can be found on www.mendocinocounty.org

The Health Officer Dr. Doohan will continue to closely follow any changes in this topic on a daily basis, and may update this guidance in response to any future state and federal public health authorities' recommendations.

The guidance on face covering, social distancing protocol for essential businesses, the [Shelter-In-Place Order](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) are available online at www.mendocinocounty.org.

For more on COVID-19:

www.mendocinocounty.org

Call Center: (707) 234-6052 or email callcenter@mendocinocounty.org

The call center is open daily from 8:00 a.m. – 8 p.m.

CARMEL J. ANGELO
Chief Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CONTACT INFORMATION
501 Low Gap Road • Room 1010
Ukiah, California 95482
TELEPHONE: (707) 463-4221
FAX: (707) 463-7237
Email: bos@mendocinocounty.org
Web: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/board-of-supervisors

Health Officer Guidance on Face Coverings for General Public in All Age Groups

The CDC has released guidance that Covid19 can be spread during an asymptomatic period for 48 hours before the infected person feels sick.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>

New information on the spread of COVID-19 now suggests that the widespread use of face coverings may help to protect our community from asymptomatic transmission of the disease.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Face-Coverings-Guidance.aspx>

Because of this, the Mendocino County Health Officer recommends that everyone who leaves their home for an essential activity wears a face covering to the extent possible, such as a mask, scarf, bandana, or similar garment, while outside of their home. Additionally, everyone should continue to remain home except for essential activities and use social and physical distancing of 6 feet when outside of their homes.

Protect your Community

Ordinary face coverings have not been proven to protect the wearer. When worn by someone with COVID-19, however, they may reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others. Since not everyone with COVID-19 knows that they are sick, wearing a face covering helps make sure that you are not unknowingly affecting others. If worn by everyone when outside the home doing essential activities, this can help slow the overall spread of the virus and keep our community safer.

Anyone who knows that they have COVID-19, has been exposed to the virus, or who is experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath), should remain home and follow all isolation and quarantine directives from the County Health Officer and their medical provider. This guidance can be found on the CDC COVID-19 website “steps when sick”

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CARRE BROWN
First District

JOHN MCCOWEN
Second District

JOHN HASCHAK
Third District

DAN GJERDE
Fourth District

TED WILLIAMS
Fifth District

Protect your Medical Providers

Use the best face covering that you can, but save purchasing new surgical masks and protective equipment for the professionals. Our doctors, PAs, NPs, nurses, paramedics, and other healthcare providers are bravely working through this emergency to protect the rest of us. To do so, however, they need personal protective equipment, and supplies are limited. Surgical masks, unexpired N95 masks, and other essential protective equipment is not recommended for everyday use at this time, unless you already have a supply at home for personal use.

Protect your Self

Please follow all guidance on the use of face coverings and continue to use social and physical distancing. Face coverings are only one small part of the overall effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. Everyone should continue to stay home, except for essential activities, and to take every precaution when going out, including frequent hand washing, social and physical distancing of 6 feet, and other appropriate measures. Please read and follow the guidance on the cleaning, fitting, and use of face coverings.

The Health Officer will continue to closely follow any changes in this topic on a daily basis, and may update this guidance in response to any future state and federal public health authorities' recommendations.

Face Covering Usage:

General Public Participating in Essential Activities while Following Required Social Distancing:

The Health Officer endorses the use of homemade cloth face coverings for members of our community when leaving their homes to engage in essential activities among the public.

- [A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth, such as a bandana, a scarf, neck gaiter, or a homemade cover. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower-face. Homemade face coverings can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand, or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.](#)
- Patterns for home-made/sewn face coverings can be found on the internet, for example: <https://santacruz.ideafablabs.com/masks/>

When used, cloth face coverings or homemade masks should be:

- Worn only by one person.
- Fitted carefully to prevent frequent adjustment; Practice strict hand washing before and after touching and adjusting the face covering or mask.
- Washed frequently, ideally after each use, or at least daily;
 - [If you must re-wear your cloth face covering before washing during the day, wash your hands immediately after putting it back on and avoid touching your face.](#)
- [Discarded if it no longer covers the nose and mouth, if it is stretched out or damaged and cannot stay on the face or has holes/tears in the fabric.](#)

The public should continue to use physical and social distancing at any time that they leave home for an essential activity.

NOEMI DOOHAN, MD, PhD
MENDOCINO COUNTY INTERIM HEALTH OFFICER



Noemi Doohan, MD, PhD, Interim Health Officer

Date: April 3, 2020



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Health Officer Guidance on Social Distancing Protocol for Essential Businesses

All Essential Businesses are encouraged to prepare and post a “Social Distancing Protocol” for each of their facilities in the County frequented by the public or employees. A sample of a recommended Social Distancing Protocol is attached to this Guidance as Appendix A. It is recommended that the Social Distancing Protocol be posted at or near the entrance of the relevant facility, and shall be easily viewable by the public and employees. It is further recommended that a copy of the Social Distancing Protocol also be provided to each employee performing work at the facility.

Essential businesses are also encouraged to find ways to protect individuals over 65 years of age, or those who are otherwise at a greater risk from COVID-19, such as designated shopping hours. Further it is recommended that Essential Businesses encourage people to shop in the smallest groups possible.

The Social Distancing Protocol should explain how the business is achieving the following, as applicable:

- i. Limiting the number of people who can enter into the facility at any one time to ensure that people in the facility can easily maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another at all times, except as required to complete the Essential Business activity;
- ii. Where lines may form at a facility, marking six-foot increments at a minimum, establishing where individuals should stand to maintain adequate social distancing;
- iii. Providing hand sanitizer, soap and water, or effective disinfectant at or near the entrance of the facility and in other appropriate areas for use by the public and employees, and in locations where there is high-frequency employee interaction with members of the public (*e.g.*, cashiers);
- iv. Providing for contactless payment systems or, if not feasible to do so, the providing for disinfecting all payment portals, pens, and styluses after each use;
- v. Regularly disinfecting other high-touch surfaces;
- vi. Posting a sign at the entrance of the facility informing all employees and customers that they should: avoid entering the facility if they have a cough or fever; maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another; sneeze and cough into one’s elbow; and not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact; and
- vii. Any additional social distancing measures being implemented (see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s guidance at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>)

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CARRE BROWN
First District

JOHN MCCOWEN
Second District

JOHN HASCHAK
Third District

DAN GJERDE
Fourth District

TED WILLIAMS
Fifth District

NOEMI DOOHAN, MD, PhD
MENDOCINO COUNTY INTERIM HEALTH OFFICER

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'N' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Noemi Doohan, MD, PhD, Interim Health Officer

Date: April 3, 2020

APPENDIX A**Business name:****Facility Address:**

Approximate gross square footage of space open to the public:

Signage:

- Signage at each public entrance of the facility to inform all employees and customers that they should: avoid entering the facility if they have a cough or fever; maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another; sneeze and cough into a cloth or tissue or, if not available, into one's elbow; and not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact.
- Signage posting a copy of the Social Distancing Protocol at each public entrance to the facility.

Measures To Protect Employee Health (check all that apply to the facility):

- Everyone who can carry out their work duties from home has been directed to do so.
- All employees have been told not to come to work if sick.
- Symptom checks are being conducted before employees may enter the work space.
- All desks or individual work stations are separated by at least six feet.
- Break rooms, bathrooms, and other common areas are being disinfected frequently, on the following schedule:
 - Break rooms:
 - Bathrooms:
 - Other ():
- Disinfectant and related supplies are available to all employees at the following location(s):
- Hand sanitizer effective against COVID-19 is available to all employees at the following location(s):
- Soap and water are available to all employees at the following location(s):
- Copies of this Protocol have been distributed to all employees.
- Describe other measures:

Measures To Prevent Crowds From Gathering (check all that apply to the facility):

- Limit the number of customers in the store at any one time to [*insert maximum number here*], which allows for customers and employees to easily maintain at least six-foot distance from one another at all practicable times.
- Post an employee at the door to ensure that the maximum number of customers in the facility set forth above is not exceeded.
- Placing per-person limits on goods that are selling out quickly to reduce crowds and lines. Explain:
- Optional—Describe other measures:

Measures To Keep People At Least Six Feet Apart (check all that apply to the facility):

- Placing signs outside the store reminding people to be at least six feet apart, including when in line.
- Placing tape or other markings at least six feet apart in customer line areas inside the store and on sidewalks at public entrances with signs directing customers to use the markings to maintain distance.
- Separate order areas from delivery areas to prevent customers from gathering.
- All employees have been instructed to maintain at least six feet distance from customers and from each other, except employees may momentarily come closer when necessary to accept payment, deliver goods or services, or as otherwise necessary.
- Optional—Describe other measures:

Measures To Prevent Unnecessary Contact (check all that apply to the facility):

- Preventing people from self-serving any items that are food-related.
 - Lids for cups and food-bar type items are provided by staff; not to customers to grab.
 - Bulk-item food bins are not available for customer self-service use.
- Not permitting customers to bring their own bags, mugs, or other reusable items from home that must be handled by employees. Customers bringing their own reusable items that do not require handling by employees is permissible.
- Providing for contactless payment systems or, if not feasible, sanitizing payment systems regularly. Describe:
 - Optional—Describe other measures (e.g. providing senior-only hours):

Measures To Increase Sanitization (check all that apply to the facility):

- Disinfecting wipes that are effective against COVID-19 are available near shopping carts and shopping baskets.
- Employee(s) assigned to disinfect carts and baskets regularly.
- Hand sanitizer, soap and water, or effective disinfectant is available to the public at or near the entrance of the facility, at checkout counters, and anywhere else inside the store or immediately outside where people have direct interactions.
 - Disinfecting all payment portals, pens, and styluses after each use.
 - Disinfecting all high-contact surfaces frequently.
 - Optional—Describe other measures:

* Any additional measures not included here should be listed on separate pages, which the business should attach to this document.

You may contact the following person with any questions or comments about this protocol:

Name:

Phone number: