



Shasta County  
**Health & Human  
Services Agency**

**Public Health  
Branch**

## **COVID-19 Health Update**

**June 19, 2020**

Please distribute to all providers in the facility

**The purpose of this health update is to provide current information on the following topics:**

- Masks and face covering to prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission
- Remdesivir access
- Shastaready.org - for the latest local information on COVID-19

## **Masks and Face Coverings**

### **State Face Covering Requirements for the Public**

There is abundant scientific evidence that facemasks are effective in reducing or eliminating the transmission of SARS-CoV2 from person to person, particularly when combined with social distancing, hand hygiene and environmental hygiene practices.

With the “re-opening” of sectors statewide we have seen an increase in cases, including in the North State, and consequently more need to protect each other from COVID-19 exposure. The state of California has mandated that face coverings are now required state wide by the public when outside the home. The timing of the release of this guidance will help address the increase of COVID-19 in Shasta County. We have a shared responsibility to slow the spread of COVID-19 so we can keep our businesses open and continue to enjoy doing the things we like to do.

For more information, including exemptions for individuals with medical conditions or other limitations, see:

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings\\_06-18-2020.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings_06-18-2020.pdf)

## Recommendations for Health Care Settings

With continued community transmission of SARS-CoV-2, facilities and health care personnel should be prepared to provide care in the safest way possible, including minimizing chances of exposure by using *universal source control* as recommended by the CDC ([CDC's Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease](#)).

Universal source control includes health care personnel, patients and visitors throughout the entirety of the health facility visit. The aim is to reduce the potential of transmission (asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic, and symptomatic) by health care personnel and anyone entering the facility to other health care personnel and to patients.

### Health care personnel (HCP) should wear a facemask at all times while they are in the health care facility.

- All HCP should be trained on proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use.
- Facemasks offer both source control and protection for the wearer against exposure to splashes and sprays of infectious material from others. Cloth face coverings are not considered PPE by the CDC and should not be used by health care workers or first responders when they are caring for patients.
- If extending the use of a facemask, HCP should take steps to avoid self-contamination. If an HCP must touch or adjust their facemask or cloth face covering, they should perform hand hygiene immediately before and after.
- When an HCP is not working directly with patients, a cloth face covering might be used, though care should be taken to avoid self-contamination if switching between masks.
- Health care personnel who do not require PPE, such as clerical staff, may wear a cloth face covering.
- Transmission of COVID-19 has occurred in health care facilities in break areas when personnel are socializing with colleagues; therefore, care should be taken to continue use in these settings, particularly if adequate physical distancing is not possible.

**HCP, especially physicians and non-physician practitioners, are role models and trusted sources of information to their patients and caregivers. HCP behavior influences that of their patients and is an important consideration in uptake of prevention practices by patients, including the medically vulnerable.**

Shasta County Public Health has heard concerns from community members who have visited a health care facility. Some of these comments have included:

- Crowded waiting rooms where no one was wearing a mask
- Their clinician did not wear a mask when seeing them or the medical assistant didn't wear a mask when taking vital signs

- The laboratory technicians weren't wearing masks and disparaged patients who wore them
- Their provider commenting that masks are not necessary because COVID-19 isn't a big deal in Shasta County

Please help protect your patients and our community by promoting the health benefits of widespread use of face coverings and masks.

### [Shastaready.org](https://shastaready.org)

This website is the first place to see all information on Shasta County's response to local emergencies, currently the COVID-19 pandemic and health emergency. Go to [Shastaready.org](https://shastaready.org) to find the Roadmap to Recovery Reopening Toolkit; Data and Statistics; Get Tested link to the state testing website; and Incident Updates.

At the "Roadmap," you can find a list of businesses/sectors that can open now and state guidance to follow to safely re-open our local economy.

See "Data and Statistics" for the COVID Alert Level and latest COVID-19 statistics for Shasta County and surrounding counties. The COVID Alert Level is used to inform the public of the current status of COVID-19 in Shasta County. It monitors seven indicators in three categories to provide an overall alert level, which measures disease status, the impact on the healthcare system and how effective community efforts have been in controlling the disease.

At the "Get Tested!" link ( <https://lhi.care/covidtesting>) you and your staff or patients can sign up to get tested at the state testing site at Shasta College. If your patients do not have internet access they can call 1-888-634-1123. Patients with symptoms can also get tested at a drive through testing site in Redding or east county by calling 530-225-5591. Shasta County Public Health staff will screen the caller and schedule the appointment for testing.

### Remdesivir

At present, there are no medications to prevent or treat COVID-19 in the outpatient setting. For hospitalized patients meeting certain specific criteria, the investigational antiviral drug remdesivir has been given FDA Emergency Use Authorization. The manufacturer (Gilead Sciences) has donated this drug through FEMA to all states. California Department of Public Health then allocates this donated supply to county health departments based on historical numbers of hospitalized COVID patients. Regional resource requests may also be made to access the medication. The supply of donated drug is almost expended with the final allotment to be received soon. It is unknown what the procurement process will be after the final allotment.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/CHHSRemdesivirFactSheet5.29.20.pdf#search=remdesivir>

## References:

CDC Health Care Facilities Managing Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic June 11, 2020  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-hcf.html#outpatient-ambulatory>

CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings Update May 18, 2020  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

CDC Strategies for Optimizing the Use of PPE  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>

CDC Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19, May 23, 2020  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings June 18, 2020  
[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings\\_06-18-2020.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings_06-18-2020.pdf)

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WHO Advice on the Use of Masks in the Context of COVID-19, Interim Guidance, 5 June 2020  
[https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332293/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC\\_Masks-2020.4-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332293/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC_Masks-2020.4-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)