



P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEWIDE ORDER REQUIRES USE OF FACE COVERINGS

Because our community is opening back up and the North State has seen an increase in cases, we need to protect each other from COVID-19 exposure and infection. 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 our county.

Why do we need to wear face coverings?

We have a joint 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. Face coverings help contain infected droplets when someone talks, coughs or sneezes. This does not take the place of the need to maintain physical distancing, handwashing, staying home when sick (even with mild illness) and other safety measures.

When do I need to wear a face covering?

You should wear face coverings when in public places, particularly when indoors or in other areas where physical distancing is not possible.

How do I keep my face covering clean?

Cloth face coverings should be washed frequently, ideally after each use, or at least daily. If you must re-wear your cloth face covering before washing, wash your hands immediately after putting it back on and avoid touching your face.

Are face coverings effective? Are they safe?

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The virus is spread mainly from person to person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). It

spreads through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land on the mucus membranes of the eyes, mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. The prolonged use of masks can be uncomfortable. However, it does not lead to CO2 intoxication nor oxygen deficiency.

How can I learn more?

More information about cloth face coverings is available at www.ShastaReady.org. Click on “Frequently Asked Questions.”

Who is going to enforce this?

At this time, we don't know how state agencies will enforce this order. However, we all share the responsibility to protect each other from the spread of the disease, especially the most vulnerable.