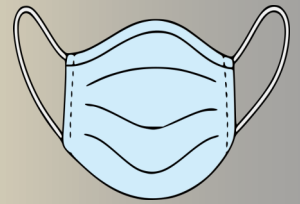


Frequently Asked Questions Health Officer Face Mask Order



Why was the Health Officer mandatory face mask ordered? The Plumas County Health Officer issued the order due to the significant rise in local COVID-19 hospitalizations, deaths and the appearance of community spread within Plumas County. Even though COVID-19 vaccination is the best way to stop the spread of COVID-19, wearing a face mask is an effective practice to quickly slow the spread of COVID-19 and it is less restrictive than other measures.

Is the Health Officer order legal? Yes, the order is legal. It is authorized by Section 120175 of the California Health and Safety Code. The failure of an individual or business to comply with this Order can be punished as a misdemeanor carrying a punishment of up to six months in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000 pursuant to Section 120295 of the Health and Safety Code.

Who does this order apply to and who has to follow the order? The order applies to individuals: The order requires face covering to be worn, regardless of vaccination status, at all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings and businesses.

The order applies to businesses: The order requires all businesses and others responsible for the operation of indoor public settings to (1) require all patrons to wear face coverings, and (2) post visible, easy to read signs alerting patrons of the requirement to wear face coverings.

Who is exempt (does not have to wear face mask indoor public places) from the order?

- ◆ Children 2 years and under
- ◆ In office or room alone
- ◆ Actively eating and/or drinking,
- ◆ Swimming, showering or engaging in water-based sports,
- ◆ Actively engaged in other sports where masks create an imminent risk to health (wrestling, judo)
- ◆ There are other exemptions, so for the list of exemptions you can go to the state's website at <https://covid19.ca.gov/masks-and-ppe/>

How long will this order be in effect (how long do we have to wear face mask at indoor public places?): The order is temporary. The Public Health Agency is monitoring the situation daily and will terminate the order when the rate of new COVID-19 cases returns to the level before the current surge (fewer than 5 per week) for at least 2 weeks or when enough people have been fully vaccinated to stop the spread of infection (about 70% of eligible residents).

Are face masks effective in slowing the spread of COVID-19? According to the CDC, face masks are effective in preventing infection, diagnosis and death by COVID-19. Multiple epidemiologic investigation showed cloth masks reduced risk of acquiring infection by at least 70%. Seven published reports showed reduced COVID-19 cases or deaths in communities where masks were mandated. On average new COVID-19 cases leveled off approximately 10-12 days after a masking mandate had been ordered. For detailed information go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/science-of-masking-full.pdf>

Are face masks harmful? There is no research or evidence that would indicate wearing a face mask for long periods of time are harmful or can make a person sick.

