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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2020 Update -

SIERRA COUNTY FACE COVERING ORDER OF MAY 1, 2020. THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUED A STATEWIDE GUIDANCE GENERALLY REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS.

The following was announced on June 18, 2020:

Californians Must Wear Face Coverings When in Higher-Risk Situations, Especially Indoors

Face Coverings Help Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

Governor Newsom: "Simply put, we are seeing too many people with faces uncovered – putting at risk the real progress we have made in fighting the disease."

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Public Health released [updated PDF guidance that requires Californians to wear a face covering in high-risk settings](#). A growing body of scientific research has shown that people with no or few symptoms of COVID-19 can still spread the disease and that the use of face coverings, combined with physical distancing and frequent hand washing, will reduce the spread of COVID-19.

"Science shows that face coverings and masks work," said Governor Gavin Newsom. "They are critical to keeping those who are around you safe, keeping businesses open and restarting our economy."

The document mandates that face coverings be worn statewide by the general public when outside the home with few exceptions. Attached is the Sierra County Face Covering order with changes in order to align with the statewide requirements and guidance:

Public Health Division

County of Sierra County

AMENDED ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER GENERALLY REQUIRING FACIAL COVERINGS

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code§ 120295, etseq.; Cal. Penal Code§§ 69, 148(a)(l))

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF Sierra County ("HEALTH OFFICER") ORDERS:

1. This Order temporarily requires the use of Facial Coverings in order to further slow transmission of Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19"). This Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on May 1, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer. All individuals, businesses and government agencies in the County of Sierra ("County") are required to follow the provisions of this Order. This Order applies to the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Sierra County to include: Downieville, Sierra City, Sierraville, Loyalton, Alleghany, Calpine, Goodyears Bar, Pike, Sattley, Sierra Brooks, Verdi, Bassetts and any other location that brings the public to interface.

2. Due to the pandemic outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, there is a public health emergency throughout the County. In addition, some individuals who contract the COVID-19 virus have no symptoms or have mild symptoms and they may not be aware they carry the virus. Because even people without symptoms can spread COVID-19, and because evidence shows the disease is easily spread, public activities can result in preventable transmission of the virus. The scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. County residents must minimize public activities and interactions. By reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this Order helps preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the County and prevent more deaths.

3. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the March 4, 2020, Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, the Declarations of Local Health Emergency issued by the Health Officer on March 20, 2020, The Proclamation of a Local Emergency on March 20, 2020, and the March 20, 2020, Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sierra, Ratifying the Declarations of Local Health Emergency and Local Emergency Proclamation, Governor Newsom's March 12, 2020, Executive Order N25-20, Governor Newsom's March 19, 2020, Executive Order N-33-20, and the designation by the State Public Health Officer of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers issued March 22, 2020.

4. This Order comes after the release of substantial guidance from the Health Officer, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and other public health officials throughout the United States, including a variety of orders to combat the spread and harms of COVID-19. The Health Officer will continue to assess the quickly evolving situation and may modify or extend this Order, or issue additional Orders, related to COVID-19. This Order applies to all businesses in the County, including for-profit, nonprofit, or educational entities, regardless of the nature of the service, the function they perform, or its corporate or entity structure.

5. The Health Officer has determined that this Order, and her prior Orders, were and are necessary because COVID-19 has demonstrated state-wide community spread, is highly contagious, and is spread through respiratory droplets that are produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets may land on other people or be inhaled into their lungs, may land on and attach to surfaces where they remain for days, and may remain viable in the air for up to three hours, even after the infected person has left. When worn properly, Face Coverings have the potential to slow the spread of the virus by limiting the spread of these droplets. The CDC and CDPH now believe that wearing a Face Covering, when combined with physical distancing of at least 6 feet and frequent hand washing, may reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19 by reducing the spread of respiratory droplets.

6. As used in this Order, a "Facial Covering" means a covering made of cloth, fabric or permeable materials, without holes, that covers only the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face. A covering that hides or obscures the wearer's eyes or forehead is not a Face Covering. Examples of acceptable masks and/or face coverings include a scarf, bandana, neck gaiter, homemade covering made from a t-shirt, sweatshirt, or towel, or a mask (which need not be medical grade). It may be factory-made or handmade from household materials.

Note that any mask that incorporates a one-way valve (typically a raised plastic cylinder about the size of a quarter on the front or side of the mask) that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling is not a Face Covering under this order and is not to be used to comply with this Order's requirements. Valves of that type permit droplet release from the mask, putting others nearby at risk.

How to make, wear and clean Face Coverings:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

7. All members of the public, except as specifically exempted below, must wear a Face Covering in the following situations:

- When they are inside of, or in line to enter, or when conducting business through a car window or walk-up counter with any Business or indoor public space, unless exempted by state guidelines for specific public settings (see specific state CDPH guidance e.g. school or childcare center).
- When they are obtaining services at Healthcare Operations including hospitals, clinics, COVID-19 testing locations, dentists, pharmacies, blood banks and blood drives, other healthcare facilities, mental health providers, or facilities providing veterinary care and similar health care services for animals, unless specifically directed otherwise by an employee or worker at the Healthcare Operation.
- When they are riding on public transportation, private car service, or ride-sharing vehicle.
- While outdoors in public spaces when maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet from persons who are not members of the same household or residence is not feasible.

8. Each driver or operator of any public transportation, private car service or ride-sharing vehicle must wear a Face Covering while driving or operating such vehicle when passengers are present, and, strongly recommended even when no passengers are present due to the need to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets in the vehicle.

9. All Businesses, as well as entities and organizations with workers (except for Healthcare Operations, which are subject to their own regulations regarding specified Face Coverings) must:

a. Require their employees, contractors, owners, and volunteers to wear a Face Covering at the workplace and off-site work any time the employee, contractor, owner, or volunteer is:

- interacting in person with any member of the public;
- working in any space visited by members of the public, such as reception areas, grocery store or pharmacy aisles, service counters, public restrooms, cashier and checkout areas, waiting rooms, service areas, and other spaces used to interact with the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time;
- working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;

- working in or walking through common areas such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities; or
- in any room or enclosed area when other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present.

For clarity, a Face Covering is not required when a person is alone in a personal office (a single room), when others outside of that person's household are not present so long as the public does not regularly visit the room. By way of example, a construction worker, plumber, bank manager, accountant, or bike repair person is not required to wear a Face Covering if that individual is alone and in a space not regularly visited by the public. However, that individual must put on a Face Covering when coworkers are nearby or in the room, when being visited by a client/customer, and anywhere members of the public or other coworkers are regularly present.

b. Take reasonable measures, such as posting signs, to remind their customers and the public of the requirement that they wear a Face Covering while inside or waiting in line to enter the business, facility, or location. All Businesses should take all reasonable steps to prohibit entry to any member of the public who is not wearing a Face Covering.

10. The Following individuals are exempt from wearing a face covering:

- Any child aged two years or less must NOT wear a Face Covering because of the risk of suffocation. Parents and caregivers must supervise use of Face Coverings by children to avoid misuse.
- Wearing a Face Covering is recommended, but not required, while engaged in outdoor work or exercise such as walking, hiking, bicycling, or running. Each person engaged in such activity must comply with social distancing requirements including maintaining at least six feet of separation from all other people to the greatest extent possible. Additionally, it is recommended that each person engaged in such activity bring a Face Covering and wear it in circumstances where it is difficult to maintain compliance with social distancing requirements, and that they carry the Face Covering in a readily accessible location, such as around the person's neck or in a pocket. Because running or bicycling causes people to more forcefully expel airborne particles, making the usual minimum 6 feet distance less adequate, physical distance of greater than 6 feet should be maintained when engaging in these activities. People should avoid spitting in conjunction with exercise.
- This Order does not require any person to wear a Face Covering while driving alone, or exclusively with other members of the same family or household, in a motor vehicle.
- A Face Covering is also not required by this Order to be worn by a particular individual if the person can show either: (1) a medical professional has advised that wearing a Face Covering may pose a risk to the person wearing the Face Covering for health-related reasons; or (2) wearing a Face Covering would create a risk to the person related to their work as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines. (3) A Face Covering should also not be used by anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the Face Covering without assistance. (4) Persons who are hearing impaired or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, here the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.

- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
- Persons who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking, provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.
- Persons who are incarcerated. Prisons and Jails have specific guidance on the wearing of face coverings or masks for both inmates and staff.

NOTE: Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as face shield with a drape on the bottom edge. As long as their condition permits.

11. Face Coverings should be comfortable, so that the wearer can breathe comfortably through the nose and does not have to adjust it frequently, so as to avoid touching the face. For as long as medical grade masks such as N95 masks and surgical masks are in short supply, members of the public should not purchase those masks as Face Coverings under this Order; those medical grade masks should be reserved for health care providers and first responders. In general, even when not required by this Order, people are strongly encouraged to wear Face Coverings when in public. Also, for Face Coverings that are not disposed after each use, people should clean them frequently and have extra ones available so that they have a clean one available for use.

12. The Intent of this Order is (1) to save lives, and by wearing a face covering, you mitigate the spread of the virus. (2) help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus and mitigate the impact of the virus on members of the public and on the delivery of critical healthcare services to those in need. (3) Provide additional safety precautions as more businesses and activities open up (4) Reduce the risk for transmitting the disease as more people travel and gather in groups outside of their household or residence. (5) Reduce the need to act on outbreaks by significant containment and mitigation measures such as moving back in the stages of reopening or more strict stay- at- home orders. (6) Bring the Sierra County Face Covering order into alignment with the state guidance:

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings_06-18-2020.pdf

All provisions of this Order must be interpreted to effectuate this intent. .

13. Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sierra County Sheriff's Office ensure compliance with and enforce this Order. The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

14. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County offices at 202 Front St Loyalton, CA 96118 or 22 Maiden Ln Downieville, CA 95936 (2) posted on the County Public Health

Department website (www.sierracounty.ca.gov); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

15. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Celia Sutton-Pado MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "MD" written at the end.

Celia Sutton-Pado MD, Sierra County Public Health Officer
Order of the County Health Officer Requiring Facial Coverings
Dated: June 25, 2020