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MODIFICATION OF MONO COUNTY FACE-COVERING ORDER TO ALIGN WITH RECENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA MANDATORY GUIDANCE

June 30, 2020 – Mono County Health Officer Dr. Tom Boo re-issued the Public Health Order requiring face coverings while in most public settings to align with the June 18, 2020 State of California guidance, mandating the use of cloth face coverings by the general public when outside the home, with limited exceptions. The basic requirements are the same, although the new County Order provides more details about when face coverings must be worn, and under what circumstances they are not necessary (see Order under “Directives” tab online at monohealth.com/coronavirus).

“Multi-layer cloth face coverings reduce the spread of virus when an infected person talks, coughs, sneezes, sings or shouts,” stated Dr. Boo. “Face coverings are imperfect at preventing spread, and are not a substitute for maintaining safe distance between unrelated people, but if enough people use them they can make a big difference in the spread of the epidemic, reducing the number of people who are hospitalized and who die. Widespread use of cloth face coverings will help us successfully re-open after the Stay at Home Order is modified.”

Many people with COVID-19 have minimal or no symptoms but can still spread disease, and the virus can be deadly to some people, especially elderly or those who have medical conditions. Cloth face coverings are worn mainly to protect other people from getting the infection from the wearer, although depending upon the type they provide some protection for the person wearing them. Medical grade masks and respirators (surgical masks and N-95 or higher respirators) provide more protection to the wearer. Wearing face coverings done out of respect and concern for others, not out of fear of the virus.

Highlights of the Order include:

- Face coverings must be worn in most public settings by most people.
- Use is generally required in any public indoor setting except when eating or drinking in a restaurant.
- Use is required outdoors when it is not possible to maintain safe distance (minimum of 6 feet) from other people who are not part of the same household.
- Face coverings must cover both the nose and mouth and should not have holes.
- Mesh face coverings do not comply with this Order and should not be used.
- Face coverings should not be used on children under 2 years.
- Individuals who cannot tolerate face coverings because of medical or psychological conditions are allowed to not use them, but should be particularly careful to maintain safe distance from others and consider using plastic face shields to reduce the risk of virus spread.

Staying safe and protecting each other is something we can control. We invite you to join us in this united effort and encourage you to showcase your safe practices and support our local businesses.

Cover. Distance. Wash and #StaySafeToStayOpen

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