

**ORDER OF THE PLUMAS COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER
REQUIRING ALL PERSONS TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS IN INDOOR
WORKPLACE AND PUBLIC SETTINGS**

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 § 120275 et seq.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12:01 AM, August 30, 2021

Summary of Order: This Order requires all individuals within the County of Plumas to wear face coverings when indoors in workplaces and public settings, with limited exemptions, and recommends that businesses make face coverings available to individuals entering the business.

Background: Since June 2020 the SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes COVID-19 has had a major adverse impact on the health, wellness, and success of Plumas County residents, businesses, and education. It has caused serious illness sometimes resulting in hospitalization, death, and disability. Routine public health measures including the wearing of facial coverings (masks) have at times been necessary to control the spread of this virus.

Since May 2021, the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 (“Delta”) variant has been detected circulating in Plumas County. This variant is highly transmissible especially in indoor settings and requires multi-component prevention strategies to reduce spread. Plumas County is now experiencing sustained and increasing community transmission of the Delta variant.

Hospitalizations and deaths due to SARS-CoV-2 have also increased, primarily among unvaccinated persons. This must be stopped to save the health and lives of Plumas County residents, permit ongoing business and economic activity, and allow safe in-person instruction in schools countywide.

Getting vaccinated is the best way to reduce risk. The COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the United States are highly safe and effective. They protect individuals and communities particularly against severe COVID-19 disease, hospitalization, and death, and are recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) for all populations for whom the vaccine is authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The Health Officer strongly recommends that all eligible persons in the county be vaccinated as soon as possible. Information on obtaining a COVID-19 vaccine in Plumas County is available here:

<https://www.plumascounty.us/2761/COVID-19---Vaccine>

On July 22, 2021, in light of the apparent increased transmissibility of the Delta variant, the Plumas County Public Health Agency recommended that all individuals including fully vaccinated persons wear masks in public indoor settings. On July 27, 2021, the CDC updated their guidance for fully vaccinated people recommending that in areas of substantial or high transmission, which includes Plumas County, fully vaccinated persons wear a mask in public indoor settings in addition to not fully vaccinated persons. On July 28, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) issued Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings in public

indoor settings statewide in alignment with the CDC's recommendation, recommending all persons wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Universal indoor use of face coverings in public settings, also known as masking, is the least disruptive and most immediately impactful measure to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant. This Order is part of a strategy to support the continued operations of businesses, activities and schools.

The Health Officer will continue to assess the public health situation as it evolves and may modify this Order, or issue additional Orders related to COVID-19, as changing circumstances dictate.

ORDER

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

1. This Order will take effect at 12:01 a.m. on August 30, 2021, and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.
2. This Order extends CDPH Guidance for the Use of Masks to vaccinated and unvaccinated people alike and is therefore more restrictive than the July 28, 2021 guidance for face coverings issued by the CDPH.
 - Except as otherwise set forth herein, the Guidance for the Use of Masks issued by the CDPH, as may be amended from time to time, also continues to apply throughout Plumas County. This guidance can be accessed here: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>
3. This Order directs that face coverings must be worn over the mouth and nose -- regardless of vaccination status -- in all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and businesses, including but not limited to: retail stores, restaurants and bars, theaters, family entertainment centers, and government offices serving the public.
4. Individuals, businesses, venue operators, hosts, and others responsible for the operation of indoor public settings must:
 - Require all patrons to wear face coverings in all indoor settings, regardless of their vaccination status; and
 - Post clearly visible and easy-to-read signage at all entry points for indoor settings to communicate the masking requirements to all patrons.
 - In addition, those responsible for indoor public settings are strongly encouraged to provide face coverings at no cost to individuals required to wear them.


5. Exemptions from face covering requirements. Individuals are not required to wear face coverings in the following circumstances:
- When alone in an office or room;
 - When actively eating and/or drinking;
 - When swimming or showering or engaging in water-based sports;
 - While actively engaged in other sports where masks create imminent risk to health (e.g., wrestling, judo);
 - When obtaining a medical or cosmetic service for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service;

Additional exemptions:

- Persons younger than two years old must not wear a mask because of the risk of suffocation;
 - In a school setting, for medical, developmental or pedagogical reasons as outlined in CDPH guidance for K12 education;
 - Other persons exempted according to CDPH guidance on the use of masks: persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask; who are hearing impaired or communicating with a hearing-impaired person, or for whom wearing a mask would create a risk related to their work.
6. The Health Officer will continue to monitor several key indicators to inform the decision whether to modify the restrictions in this Order. These indicators include (1) progress in countering the spread of COVID-19 in the County; (2) developments in methods and strategies for preventing and treating COVID-19; and (3) scientific understanding of the transmission dynamics and clinical impact of COVID-19.
7. 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 16, 2020 the March 17, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Plumas Ratifying the Declarations of Local Health Emergency, Resolution No. 20-8473, and March 17, 2020 Resolution Proclaiming Local Emergency In Plumas County Due to the Potential Introduction of COVID-19, Resolution No. 20-8474, and guidance issued by the CDPH and CDC, as each of them have been and may be supplemented.
8. This Order is also issued in light of the March 19, 2020 Order of the State Public Health Officer and subsequent orders and guidance issued by the Governor, the State Health Officer, and the CDPH and Department of Industrial Relations, including without limitation the CDPH July 28, 2021 Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings. The Health Officer may adopt more stringent restrictions and requirements addressing the particular facts and circumstances in this County necessary to control the public health emergency as it is evolving within the County and region. Where a County Health Officer Order and any state public health order related to the COVID-19 pandemic conflict, the more restrictive provision will apply.

10. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and immediate menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.
11. The County must promptly provide copies of this Order as follows: (1) by posting on the County's website (<https://www.plumascounty.us>); (2) by posting at the Plumas County Courthouse at: 520 Main Street, Quincy, CA 95971; and (3) by providing a copy to any member of the public who so requests.
12. 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:



Mark Satterfield, MD
Public Health Officer of the County of Plumas

August 26, 2021

Date