



**HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY**

**Public Health Services**  
917 Oakdale Rd, Modesto, CA 95355

**Julie Vaishampayan, MD, MPH**  
Public Health Officer

**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS DIRECTING ALL INDIVIDUALS IN THE COUNTY TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS INDOORS IN WORKPLACES AND PUBLIC SETTINGS**

**DATE ORDER AMENDED: September 22, 2021**

**BACKGROUND**

Since most restrictions from the State of California’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy were lifted on June 15, 2021, the average daily case rate of COVID-19 in Stanislaus County has increased 9-fold and the testing positivity rate has risen 4-fold. The Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is significantly more transmissible than the original virus, has become the predominant strain in the US, in California, and in Stanislaus County. Alarming, hospitalizations from COVID-19 in Stanislaus County have risen quickly from 38 patients as of July 16 to 299 patients on September 1.

This surge in COVID-19 hospitalizations is threatening our local healthcare system. At the same time as this surge in COVID-19 infections is occurring, there is also a high volume of hospitalizations from non-COVID-19 related diseases. COVID-19 hospitalizations combined with the medical needs arising from another historic wildfire season is stressing the capacity of our local hospitals and medical first responders to provide services to meet the medical needs of our county.

**TRANSMISSION REDUCTION MEASURES**

To stem this rapid increase in COVID-19 transmission and hospitalizations, the best protection for our community against this virus is to continue to increase the proportion of the population vaccinated. The least disruptive and most immediately impactful additional measure to take is the universal use of face coverings, also known as masking, while indoors. All individuals, especially those who are unvaccinated or at higher risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19, should take personal measures to reduce risk in addition to masking.

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that vaccinated individuals wear face coverings in indoor public settings in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>).
- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) requires face coverings in specific indoor public settings and recommends that individuals wear face coverings in all other indoor public settings, regardless of their vaccination status. (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>).

This Order requiring all individuals to wear face coverings, as specified below, is necessary to control and reduce the rate of community spread, support our healthcare system, and to reinforce the need for safe interactions. The Stanislaus County 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.

Amendment of the Order is necessary to clarify masking requirements for athletic activities for institutes of higher education.

## **AMENDED ORDER**

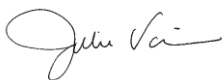
**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, 120175, AND 120220, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS (“HEALTH OFFICER”) HEREBY ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. This Order **shall become effective September 4, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.** This order is hereby rescinded and of no effect 24 hours after the seven-day average case rate, as posted on the on the Stanislaus County Dashboard on the Health Services Agency website at <http://schsa.org/coronavirus/stats/>, drops below 20 cases per 100,000 per day.
2. Except as otherwise set forth herein, the June 24, 2021 Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), as may be amended from time to time, continues to apply throughout the County.  
(<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>).
3. This Order directs that face coverings shall be worn, regardless of vaccination status, over the mouth and nose, in all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and workplaces, such as, but not limited to: offices, retail stores, restaurants and bars, theaters, family entertainment centers, conference centers, and State and local government offices serving the public.
4. Individuals, businesses, venue operators, hosts, and others responsible for the operation of indoor public settings must:
  - a. Require all patrons to wear face coverings for all indoor settings, regardless of their vaccination status; and
  - b. Post clearly visible and easy-to-read signage at all entry points for indoor settings to communicate the masking requirements to all patrons.
    - i. 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. Individuals are not required to wear face coverings in the following circumstances:
  - a. Persons who are working alone in a closed office or room;
  - b. Persons who are actively eating and/or drinking;
  - c. Persons swimming or showering in a fitness facility;
  - d. Persons who are obtaining a medical or cosmetic service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service;
  - e. Persons who are specifically exempted from wearing face masks pursuant to other CDPH guidance.
  - f. Institutes of Higher Education may elect to follow the applicable athletic association or athletic conference guidance for masking during sports competition as stated in CDPH’s “Specific Interim Guidance for Collegiate Athletics”.
6. Employers and businesses subject to the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) and/or the Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Standards should consult the applicable regulations for additional requirements. The ETS allow local health jurisdictions to mandate more protective measures. This Order, which requires face coverings for all individuals in indoor settings

and businesses, regardless of vaccination status, takes precedence over the more permissive ETS regarding employee face coverings.

7. Persons should continue to follow CDC guidance for unvaccinated people (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>) and for fully vaccinated people (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>) to protect themselves and others, including:
  - a. wearing a well-fitted face covering (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>)
  - b. avoiding crowds
  - c. avoiding poorly ventilated spaces
  - d. covering coughs and sneezes
  - e. washing hands often (<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>)
  - f. following any applicable workplace, school, or business sector guidance or requirements including the Cal/OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards.
    - i. People should still monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19, especially following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>). If symptoms develop, all people, regardless of vaccination status, should isolate and be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing. Anyone testing positive for SARS-CoV-2, regardless of vaccination status, must follow the General Isolation Order of the Stanislaus County Health Officer (<http://schsa.org/coronavirus/ph-orders-press/>).
8. All State orders and guidance documents referenced in State orders are complementary to this Order. By way of this Order, the Health Officer adopts such directives as orders as well. Where a conflict exists between a local order and any State public health order related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the most restrictive provision controls pursuant to, and consistent with, California Health and Safety Code § 131080.
9. Copies of Order. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County Administration Building at 1010 10th Street, Modesto 95354, Sixth Floor; (2) posted on the Stanislaus County COVID-19 website (<http://schsa.org/coronavirus/ph-orders-press/>); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.
10. Severability. If any provision of this Order or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, 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:**



Julie Vaishampayan, MD, MPH  
Health Officer of the County of Stanislaus

Date: September 22, 2021

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



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Thomas E. Boze  
County Counsel, County of Stanislaus

Date: September 22, 2021