



TEHAMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
RED BLUFF, CALIFORNIA
DAVE HENCRAFT, SHERIFF-CORONER

JUNE 23, 2020

TEMPORARY POLICY

Face Coverings/Masks

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy was developed as a result of Governor Newsom's document entitled "Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings" (attached) dated June 18, 2020 and an order by the Tehama County Superior Court (attached) effective June 18, 2020 which states, "Effective June 18, 2020 all individuals entering the Tehama County Courthouse must comply with the State's guidance for the use of face coverings."

This policy provides guidelines on the reasonable use of Face Coverings/Masks. While there is no way to specify or predict the exact circumstances or scenario in which a Deputy should don a mask, every member of this department is expected to use these guidelines regarding the donning or doffing of Face Coverings/Masks. Nothing in this policy shall override an employees' common sense on when and how to don and wear a Face Covering/Mask; especially in any circumstance in which an employee feels a threat of injury or death from another human being perceived as an assailant.

DEFINITION:

The definition of a Face Covering/Mask can be found in the attached guidance document authored by the State of California.

POLICY:

This policy is enacted with the purpose of invoking the ability for an exemption from wearing a Face Covering/Mask as described on page two of the State's Guidance Document "person's for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or work place safety guidelines."

By virtue of responsibilities and expectations of a Deputy Sheriff, which includes the lawful authority to deprive citizens of their freedom, either for a short term or long term, the lawful authority to intervene and act to prevent a Deputy or another from injury, the lawful authority to use deadly force and the individual Deputy discretion on how to effectively enforce the law, while considering all of the above, a Deputy Sheriff and all other law enforcement officers face extreme peril on a daily basis.

The purpose of this policy is to mitigate extreme peril to Deputies, which may result from the State's Guidance Document for the use of face coverings and the order of the Tehama County Superior Court mandating face coverings/Masks.

FACE COVERINGS/MASK

The Tehama County Sheriff's Office declares that wearing a Face Covering/Mask while on duty is an issue of Officer Safety and may jeopardize the physical safety of its Sheriff's Deputies.

There are many reasons or examples why a Deputy Sheriff's physical safety may be jeopardized. Some are listed below:

1. Command Presence- the first tenet of basic law enforcement is the ability to effectively communicate using verbal and non-verbal language and commands. The wearing of a Face Covering/Mask severely hampers this tenet.
2. Sensory Limitations- the wearing of a Face Covering/Mask reduces the sense of smell/taste which is often utilized to detect dangers such as smoke, chemicals or even alcohol on persons who may be intoxicated.
3. Eye obstruction- masks cause fogging when worn in conjunction with prescription and protective eye wear.
4. Breathing- wearing a mask may restrict normal breathing (however slight) which could detrimentally affect physical performance in an emergency situation. It could also present an inhalation/choking/entanglement issue during a physical altercation.
5. Mental Health- Prolonged wearing of a mask could potentially cause anxiety and claustrophobic reactions which may affect the overall performance and wellbeing of the wearer.

The Tehama County Sheriff recognizes that wearing a Face Covering/Mask, if constructed from proper materials, fitted properly, and worn properly, may mitigate exposure or spread of an airborne pathogen. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any Deputy or any other employee from wearing a Face Covering/Mask, should the Deputy or employee choose.

Nothing in this policy shall prevent a Deputy from using good judgement and common sense when determining whether or not to comply with a medical facility regarding wearing a Face Covering/Mask while temporarily conducting on duty business in the facility.

CLOSING ANALYSIS

The physical risk and dangers to all Deputies during every assigned task is clear and always present. These risks are much more imminent and by far outweigh the risk of exposure or transmission of almost any airborne pathogen.

The Tehama County Sheriff proclaims that wearing a Face Covering/Mask would increase the well-known physical risk and danger related to the duties of a Deputy Sheriff and could cause a workplace safety threat.

This policy will remain in effect until the current pandemic is terminated and will expire at that time.

Tehama County Sheriff's Office

Red Bluff, California

Dave Hencratt

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

June 21, 2020

To: All Court Staff

From: Sheriff Hencratt

Reference: Facial Mask Order

On June 19, 2020, Tehama County Superior Court Presiding Judge Matthew McGlynn issued a Tehama County Superior Court Emergency Order regarding "face coverings."

The order states: "Effective June 18, 2020 all individuals entering the Tehama County Courthouse must comply with the State's guidance for the use of face coverings."

The order became effective immediately and was signed by Judge McGlynn on June 19, 2020.

Per Judge McGlynn, this is a Court Order that if violated; is punishable per penal code sections 166.

Therefore until further notice, those Tehama County Sheriff's personnel assigned to the Courts should follow the States' guidance for wearing "face coverings" (See below), and should adhere to Judge McGlynn's Court Order.

The Governor of California has issued a statewide guidance that California residents are to wear face coverings in most settings outside of home. Read the full Guidance online at [cdph.ca.gov](https://www.cdph.ca.gov). See list below of when you should wear a face mask:

- Inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor public space;
- Obtaining services from a healthcare organization
- Waiting for, riding on, or operating public transportation
- Engaged in work, whether at the workplace or performing work off-site, when:
 - Interacting in-person with any member of the public;
 - Working in any space visited by members of 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;
 - In any room or enclosed area where other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present when unable to physically distance.
- 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.

Exemptions include:

- Persons age two years or under.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering.
- Persons who are hearing impaired or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired.
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk.
- Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face.
- Persons who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking
- Persons who are engaged in outdoor work or recreation
- Persons who are incarcerated

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 a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.

Dave Hencratt

Sheriff-Coroner