

County of Imperial  
Amended Order of the Health Officer

Pursuant to sections 101040, 120175, and 120175.5(b) of the California Health and Safety Code, the Imperial County Health Officer (“Health Officer”) hereby amends the Health Officer Order dated February 11, 2022. The Health Officer hereby **ORDERS AS FOLLOWS**:

On September 20, 2022, California Department of Public Health guidelines shifted from a strong recommendation for the general population, in all indoor settings at all times to use of [CDC Community Levels](#) to help inform masking recommendations, which is consistent with [August 11th CDC updated recommendations](#). The guidelines also align correctional facilities with current CDC recommendations ([CDC updated guidance on May 3<sup>rd</sup>](#)) which notes that correctional facilities may make masks optional when CDC community levels are low. It also aligns recommendations for homeless shelters, emergency shelters and cooling centers to the above recommendation for correctional facilities, i.e., also shifts from requirements to masking recommendations in these settings when CDC community levels are low. The updated guidance is effective September 23, 2022.

The Imperial County Public Health Department recommends that individuals continue to mask in indoor settings. Masking will continue to be an important layer of protection along with the continued recommendations around vaccinations, testing and ventilation, to keep schools a safe environment, even as case rates and hospitalizations decline.

**WHEREAS**, the Health Officer now issues this new Health Officer Order to ensure alignment of the County of Imperial’s local COVID-related guidelines and restrictions with those specified in all state and federal orders, regulations, and guidelines.

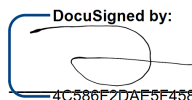
**THEREFORE**, 1200 hours on November 8, 2022, the following will be in effect for the County:

1. The Health Officer reaffirms that all residents and visitors of the County are subject to, and must abide by, the [Guidance for the Use of Face Masks](#) issued by CDPH, which includes any additions or revisions made thereto.
2. The following individuals are exempt from wearing masks at all times:
  - a. Persons younger than two years old. Very young children must not wear a mask because of the risk of suffocation.
  - b. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a mask could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance.

- c. Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
  - d. Persons 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 workplace safety guidelines.
3. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, business, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid, preempted, or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.
4. The current orders regarding masking during isolation and quarantine remain in effect. Individuals experiencing symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19 should follow the instructions for masking contained in those orders.
5. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, any applicable federal, State, or local law, regulation, rule, policy, or procedure related to COVID-19, as they may be amended, updated, or supplemented.
6. To protect the public's health, the Health Officer may take additional action(s) for failure to comply with this Order. Violation of this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, fine, or both under sections 120295 et seq. of the California Health and Safety Code. Further, pursuant to sections 26602 and 41601 of the California Government Code, and section 101029 of the California Health and Safety Code, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and the Chiefs of Police in all cities located in the County ensure compliance with and enforcement of this Order.
7. This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

Date: November 8, 2022

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Stephen Munday, M.D., MPH  
Health Officer