

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 June 10, 2021. The Health Officer hereby **ORDERS AS FOLLOWS**:

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) announced its intention to implement the [Beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), which would permit businesses, nonprofits, governmental agencies, schools, and other entities within the State to return to pre-COVID levels of operation, subject to certain common-sense risk reduction measures; and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of the implementation of the [Beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), on June 10, 2021, the Health Officer issued a new Health Officer Order to align the County of Imperial’s local COVID-related guidelines and restrictions with those specified in the [Beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) (“June 10th Order”); and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2021, the state of California (“State”) met the vaccination and hospitalization metrics necessary to implement the [Beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#); and

WHEREAS, since implementation of the [Beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), the State has begun to experience a rise in COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates due to certain COVID-19 variants, particularly the delta variant; and

WHEREAS, the delta variant is much more infectious than previous strains of COVID-19, and is thought to cause more severe illness in those that are infected; and

WHEREAS, the delta variant has become the dominant strain of COVID-19 in several counties throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, in response to the surge in COVID-19 positivity rates throughout the State, CDPH has implemented certain guidelines to assist in preventing the spread of the delta variant and other strains of COVID-19. On July, 28, 2021, in accordance with recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDPH issued an updated [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#), which generally requires all unvaccinated individuals to wear face coverings in public indoor settings. The [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#) also requires vaccinated individuals to wear face coverings in certain high-risk public indoor settings, such as public transit, K-12 schools, and healthcare settings; and

WHEREAS, local public health officers in other jurisdictions throughout the State have exercised their discretion to implement COVID-19 prevention measures that are more restrictive

than those implemented by CDPH, and have adopted local health officer orders to require individuals to wear face coverings in all public indoor settings, regardless of their vaccination status; and

WHEREAS, over the last two weeks, the County’s Department of Public Health (“Public Health”) has documented a marked increase in both COVID-19 positivity and hospitalization rates within the County. Public Health has further documented that COVID-19 infections originating from the delta variant are increasing at a faster rate than other variants in the County; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the health and welfare of the residents and visitors of the County, and to assist with preventing the spread of the delta variant of COVID-19 within the community, the Health Officer has determined that the June 10th Order should be amended to require all individuals to wear a face covering while in a public indoor setting, regardless of their vaccination status. The Health Officer has further determined that the implementation of a countywide indoor masking requirement during the early stages of the spread of the delta variant may reduce the need for the implementation of more restrictive prevention measures in the future.

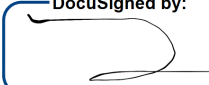
THEREFORE, effective 12:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, and continuing until rescinded, the following will be in effect for the County:

1. The Health Officers reaffirms that all residents and visitors of the County are subject to, and must abide by the [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#) issued by CDPH, which includes any additions or revisions made thereto.
2. Unless otherwise stated in this Order, all residents and visitors of the County shall be required to wear a face cover in all public indoor settings at all times, regardless of their vaccination status.
 - a. The following individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings in public indoor settings:
 - i. Persons younger than two years old.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. 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.

- b. An individual exempt from wearing a face covering in a public indoor setting is expected to wear a face shield with a cloth drape attached at the bottom, unless medically unable to do so.
 - c. Face coverings shall not be required to be worn in public indoor settings under the following circumstances:
 - i. When actively eating or drinking.
 - ii. When showering or engaging in personal hygiene or personal care services that require the removal of the face covering.
 - iii. When alone in a separate room, office, or interior space.
 3. All other terms and conditions of the June 10th Order shall remain in full force and effect.
 4. 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.
 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: August 17, 2021

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Stephen Munday, M.D., MPH
Health Officer