



Santa Clara County  
**PUBLIC  
HEALTH**

# MANDATORY DIRECTIVE:



## Use of Face Coverings

**Issued May 18, 2021**

[sccgov.org/coronavirus](https://sccgov.org/coronavirus)

Last Revised and Effective: June 15, 2021



## **MANDATORY DIRECTIVE ON USE OF FACE COVERINGS**

**Please review all applicable State public health orders, guidance, and regulations. Where there is a difference between the County public health requirements and the State public health requirements, the more restrictive requirements must be followed.**

Information on the State’s public health requirements is available at [covid19.ca.gov](https://covid19.ca.gov).

**Issued: May 18, 2021**  
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This Directive sets forth requirements for wearing face coverings. Evidence has shown that face coverings block the wearer from releasing exhaled respiratory particles, including particles that may contain SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”). Face coverings also protect the wearer by filtering fine droplets and particles exhaled by others, including those that may contain SARS-CoV-2. Infectious respiratory particles may be released during breathing, talking, coughing, sneezing, singing, exercising, or shouting. Use of face coverings is particularly important for persons who are not fully vaccinated because they are at greater risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and spreading infection to others.

**This Directive is mandatory, and failure to follow it is a violation of the County Health Officer’s Order issued on May 18, 2021 (“Order”).**

### *The Order Issued May 18, 2021*

The [Order](#) contains recommendations and imposes several requirements on all businesses and governmental entities to ensure that the County stays as safe as possible, including but not limited to the following:

- **Ascertainment of Vaccination Status and Mandatory Rules for Personnel not Fully Vaccinated.** Businesses and governmental entities must ascertain the vaccination status of all personnel (including employees, contractors, and volunteers) who are currently or will be working at a facility or worksite in the county and must comply with the rules for personnel who are not fully vaccinated, as required in Sections 9.c and 9.d of the Order.

- **Face Covering Requirements.** All businesses and governmental entities must comply with the mandatory rules in this Directive.
- **Case Reporting Requirements.** Businesses and governmental entities must require that all personnel immediately alert the business or governmental entity if they test positive for COVID-19 and were present in the workplace either (1) within the 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms or within 10 days after onset of symptoms if they were symptomatic; or (2) within 48 hours prior to the date on which they were tested or within 10 days after the date on which they were tested if they were asymptomatic. In the event that a business or governmental entity learns that any of its personnel is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 and was at the workplace in this timeframe, the business or governmental entity is required to report the positive case within 24 hours to the County Public Health Department at [www.sccsafeworkplace.org](http://www.sccsafeworkplace.org) and comply with subsequent necessary measures.

See the [Order](#) and the [FAQ page](#) for more details.

### *Face Covering Requirements*

1. All residents, businesses, and governmental entities must follow the California Department of Public Health’s [Guidance for Use of Face Coverings](#) (“CDPH Face Covering Guidance”) issued on June 15, 2021. This provision may be modified when changes are made to the CDPH Face Covering Guidance.
2. All businesses and governmental entities must ensure that personnel, customers, and other persons at facilities or worksites they control comply with this Directive.

### *Stay Informed*

For answers to frequently asked questions, please see the [FAQ page](#). **Please note that this Directive may be updated.** For up-to-date information on the Health Officer Order, visit the County Public Health Department’s website at [www.sccgov.org/coronavirus](http://www.sccgov.org/coronavirus).