



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

IN RE:

REQUIREMENT TO WEAR FACE
COVERINGS IN ALL EASTERN
DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FEDERAL
COURTHOUSES

GENERAL ORDER NO. 621

This court issues this General Order as another in a series of General Orders in response to the exponential spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the Eastern District of California and elsewhere, making the following findings and orders:

WHEREAS on June 18, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued an Order on Guidance for the use of Face Coverings in California, finding the increasing number of Californians who are leaving their homes for work and other needs increases the risk for COVID-19 exposure and infection.

WHEREAS, over the last four months, public health professionals and society at large all have learned more about COVID-19 transmission, most notably that people who are infected but are asymptomatic or presymptomatic contribute to community spread.

WHEREAS, the best public health guidance at this time is that the use of face coverings by everyone can limit the release of infected droplets when talking, coughing and/or sneezing, as well as reinforce physical distancing.

WHEREAS, the Governor has ordered that People in California must wear face coverings when they are in high-risk situations including inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor public space, or, engaged in work at a workplace and working in or walking through common areas, including hallways, stairways, elevators and parking facilities.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Cases in all divisions of the Eastern District of California and the rest of the State of California are increasing.

WHEREAS, the Federal Security Committees for all Eastern District of California Courthouses voted on May 28 to immediately require face coverings in public portions of all Courthouses and in private office space if six feet of physical distancing could not be maintained.

NOW THEREFORE, in light of the best information available to the Judges of the Eastern District of California at this time, on behalf of the Court and until further notice, I hereby issue the following Order:

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in all courthouses of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, face coverings must be worn in all public spaces including common areas, hallways, stairways, elevators, cafeterias, restrooms and parking facilities. Face coverings must also be worn in all private agency space where six feet of physical distancing between persons cannot be maintained.

A face covering is defined as material that covers both the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk or linen. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts or towels.

A child under 2 years old; anyone with respiratory issues where it would impede their breathing; anyone unable to remove a face covering without help; and anyone with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that does not allow them to wear a face covering is exempt from this order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: July 28, 2020

FOR THE COURT:



KIMBERLY J. MUELLER
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA