

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 December 15, 2021. The Health Officer hereby **ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

WHEREAS, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are declining across the state of California; and,

WHEREAS, The State of California instituted a universal indoor masking requirement on December 15, 2021, to mitigate the spread of the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus; and,

WHEREAS, The current hospital census is still over capacity, but the dramatic surge in cases has declined throughout California and hospitalizations due to the Omicron variant have declined in Imperial County; and,

WHEREAS, in response to the decline in COVID-19 positivity rates throughout the State, on February 8, 2022, CDPH has implemented revised guidelines on the use of face coverings to help mitigate the spread of the Omicron variant; and,

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, effective 12:00 a.m. on February 16, 2022 or as extended by CDPH, the following will be in effect for the County:

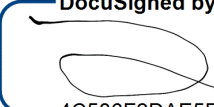
1. The Health Officer reaffirms that all residents and visitors of the County are subject to, and must abide by, the [Guidance for the Use of Face Masks](#) issued by CDPH, which includes any additions or revisions made thereto.
 - a. Per state guidelines, all unvaccinated residents and visitors of the County are required to wear a face cover in indoor public settings and businesses.
 - b. Fully vaccinated individuals are recommended, but not required to continue indoor masking when the risk of COVID-19 transmission may be high.
 - c. Per state guidelines, masks are required for all individuals in the following indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status: on public transit; K-12 schools, childcare; emergency shelters and cooling centers, healthcare settings; state and local correctional facilities and detention centers; homeless shelters; long term care settings and adult and senior care facilities. Surgical masks or higher level respirators (e.g., N95’s, KN95’s, KF94’s) with good fit are highly recommended in these settings.

2. In settings where masks are required only for unvaccinated individuals, business, venue operators or hosts, may choose to:
 - a. Provide information to all patrons regarding vaccination requirements and allow vaccinated individuals to self-attest that they are in compliance prior to entry
 - b. Implement vaccine verification to determine whether individuals are required to wear a mask.
 - c. Require all patrons to wear masks.
3. The following individuals are exempt from wearing masks at all times:
 - a. Persons younger than 2 years old.
 - b. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents them from wearing a mask.
 - 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.
4. All other terms and conditions of the June 10th Order, August 17th Order, October 28th Order, December 15th, and January 7th order not inconsistent with this Order shall remain in full force and effect.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Date: February 10, 2022

DocuSigned by:


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Stephen Munday,
M.D., MPH Health
Officer