

ORANGE COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE # 43

Date: 4-9-20 Time: 0800 hours

ORANGE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER ISSUES FACE COVERING
RECOMMENDATION FOR ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES

County of Orange Health Officer Dr. Nichole Quick today issued a recommendation strongly encouraging all employees at essential businesses to wear a face covering while at work and all residents engaged in essential activities outside the home to do the same.

The recommendation is in line with guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health on April 1, and is intended to help slow the spread of COVID-19 by those who are asymptomatic.

“Residents can make their own face coverings at home from a variety of materials and should refrain from purchasing personal protective equipment that is critical and in short supply for our healthcare workers, such as N95 and surgical masks,” said Dr. Quick.

A face covering is material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps, or simply wrapped around the lower face. Face coverings may be factory-made, as well as folded or sewn, and can be improvised using household items like scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts or towels.

“Face coverings are an additional tool that may help protect staff and patrons from COVID-19, but they are not a substitute for proven protective measures like frequent hand washing, keeping your hands away from your face, practicing social distancing and staying home,” said Dr. Quick.

In addition, effective immediately, all essential businesses as identified by the State of California (list available at www.covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf) should maintain a healthy work environment as recommended by CDC’s Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html.

###

For questions related to COVID-19, contact the Orange County COVID-19 Hotline at 1(833)426-6411, visit <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus>, or follow the HCA on Facebook (@ochealthinfo) and Twitter (@ochealth).

Release authorized by Board of Supervisors: _____

Release authorized by County Executive Officer: _____

Release authorized by Director of Emergency Services: _____

Sent by: _____ Date/Time: 4-9-20 8:50



COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

ROBERT WILSON
INTERIM DIRECTOR

LILLY SIMMERING
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

NICHOLE QUICK, MD, MPH
HEALTH OFFICER

405 W. 5TH STREET, 7TH FLOOR
SANTA ANA, CA 92701

PHONE: (714) 834-3155

FAX: (714) 834-5506

E-MAIL: NQuick@ochca.com

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ORANGE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER [ISSUED 4/8/2020]

1. WHEREAS, Executive Order N-33-20 issued by the Governor of State of California ("Executive Order") (available at <https://covid19.ca.gov/img/Executive-Order-N-33-20.pdf>) ordered all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence, except as needed to maintain the continuity of operations of sectors designated in the document available at <https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf> as updated by the State Public Health Officer ("Essential Workers").
2. WHEREAS, the State of California has published at <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/> those permissive activities that the general public may engage in while staying home or at their place of residence, such as taking a walk around one's neighborhood, etc., ("Allowed Activities").
3. WHEREAS, California Department of Public Health issued a Face Coverings Guidance ("Guidance") on April 1, 2020 (attached hereto as Exhibit A).
4. WHEREAS, the Guidance provides that a face covering is a material that covers 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; and a 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.

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 101040 and 120175, the Orange County Health Officer **STRONGLY RECOMMENDS:**

5. Effective immediately, all Essential Workers should wear a face covering while at work when interacting with the public or co-workers. In addition, all Orange County residents should wear a face covering when outside the home engaged in Allowed Activities. However, due to the scarcity of critical medical supplies, N95 respirators and surgical masks should not be used except by workers in healthcare and first responder settings.
6. Effective immediately, all entities necessary for maintaining the continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors, as identified at <https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf>, should maintain a healthy work environment as recommended by CDC's Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>.

General Provisions

7. These Recommendations are necessary to protect and preserve the public health from, and prevent, the increasing transmission of COVID-19 in California and the County.
8. All County residents are encouraged to continue practicing 6-foot social distancing and to utilize frequent handwashing. Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for these practices that are critical to slowing the increased transmission of COVID-19.
9. These Recommendations shall not supersede any conflicting or more restrictive orders issued by the State of California or Federal governments.

As this is a rapidly evolving situation, these Recommendations may be revised at any time.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Date: April 8, 2020



Dr. Nichole Quick
Orange County Health Officer