PRESS RELEASE

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Susan Klein-Rothschild, MSW
Deputy Director
(805) 681-5435
(805) 896-1057 (cell)
sklein@sbcphd.org

RE-USE YOUR FACE MASK
Instructions for reuse of N95 masks

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – N95 face masks are in short supply during the Thomas Fire incident and are being distributed in partnership with various agencies in 6 county locations outlined below.

These masks may be safely reused under the following conditions:

• The N95 masks can be reused, as long as they are still dry and able to create an airtight seal around the face.
• Discard the mask and get a new one if:
  1. It becomes wet/ soiled (sweat, mucus, etc.)
  2. It is bent out of shape and no longer able to create an air tight seal around the face

Note that the guidance you might find online for N95 masks often refers to airborne communicable diseases (tuberculosis, influenza, etc.) and may advise to discard the mask after each use. This does NOT apply to smoke particles. In our current situation involving unhealthy air quality from the fire, the N95 masks can be safely reused as described above.

These are the current locations where masks are being distributed today (Monday 12/11):

• Costco in the Camino Real Marketplace (7095 Market PI Drive, Goleta), 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
• Franklin Community Center (1136 East Montecito Street, Santa Barbara), 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
• Albertson’s in Carpinteria (1018 Casitas Pass Road, Carpinteria), 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
• Santa Barbara Public Library (40 East Anapamu Street, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
• Lompoc Home Depot (1701 East Ocean, Lompoc), 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
• Buellton CVS Pharmacy (218 E. Highway 246 Bldg. 3) until 9 pm

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