Face Cover Requirements & Guidance for Food Facilities

Updated: 4/8/20 @ 8:30a.m.

Based on questions that our office has received, we have updated this guidance.

Face Covers
Pursuant to the Santa Barbara County Health Officer Order of April 5, 2020, all food workers shall wear protective face covers while engaged in food preparation, serving, maintenance or other activities within a food facility. Cloth face covers will help keep people who are infected with COVID but who have no symptoms from spreading it to others, either directly or through contact with shared surfaces. They may also offer some protection to their wearers as well. Information about cloth face covers can be found at the CDC website:

**CDC FAQS:**

**CDC Recommendation on Face Coverings w/Video for Making Your Own:**

**CDC Information on How to Wear Face Coverings and Additional Information on Making/Constructing Homemade Face Coverings:**

Employers Must:
- Provide all workers or volunteers with clean and sanitized face covers at the start of each shift / work day and as needed if a face cover becomes soiled during the work shift.

Face Covers Must:
- Fully cover the nostrils, tip of the nose, and mouth of the wearer;
- Be secured to the face / head of the wearer with elastic, fabric or ties so as to provide a secure fit that minimizes the need for adjustment;

Should we use N95 or disposable surgical masks?
Disposable N95 or procedure (surgical) masks are not recommended for use by food facility workers doing routine food handling or food facility tasks.

The supply of these single-use masks is limited; health care workers have priority.

N95 masks should be reserved for tasks where particulate protection is required, such as when working in dusty conditions or when using certain types of chemicals.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact one of the Environmental Health Services Offices listed below.

**County of Santa Barbara | Public Health Department**

**Environmental Health Services**

**Santa Barbara Office:** 805-681-4900  
225 Camino del Remedio  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
PH: 805-681-4900 | FAX: 805-681-4901

**Santa Maria Office:** 805-346-8460  
2125 S. Centerpointe Parkway, Rm 333  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
PH: 805-346-8460 | FAX: 805-346-8485

**Websites:**
- Environmental Health Services: [http://www.countyofsb.org/phd/ehs/](http://www.countyofsb.org/phd/ehs/)
- PHD Public Information Portal for COVID-19: [https://publichealthsbc.org/](https://publichealthsbc.org/)