


<p>California Department of Justice DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT Edward Medrano, Chief</p> 	<h1>INFORMATION BULLETIN</h1>	
<p><i>Subject:</i></p> <p>Reminder regarding state-wide mandate requiring face coverings to control the spread of COVID-19.</p>	<p><i>No.</i></p> <p>2020-DLE-12</p> <p><i>Date:</i></p> <p>July 3, 2020</p>	<p><i>Contact for information:</i></p> <p>Edward Medrano, Chief Division of Law Enforcement (916) 210-6300</p>

**TO: ALL CALIFORNIA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

This bulletin serves as a reminder of the California Department of Public Health’s Guidance issued June 18, 2020 mandating that face coverings be worn state-wide in certain circumstances in order to control the spread of COVID-19.<sup>1</sup> Per Government Code § 8665, a violation or failure to comply with this mandate may be punishable as a misdemeanor.

As we approach the July 4 holiday weekend and in light of the troubling rise of COVID-19 infections, it is **vital** that all law enforcement in the state adequately enforce state and local orders protecting the public’s health. Understanding that law enforcement has great discretion in the performance of its duties, including issuing warnings or taking action short of criminal enforcement as appropriate, a publicly-stated, blanket refusal to enforce a lawful order, statute, or other applicable law is an abuse of that discretion.

As you are also no doubt aware, the face covering mandate is intended to not only protect the wearer, but also those with whom they interact. That includes vulnerable family members and friends, as well as essential workers, grocery store clerks, bus drivers, restaurant staff, and others who have no choice but to be out in public. Public statements undermining the enforcement of public health orders may have the unintended consequence of encouraging individuals to violate those orders, putting their health and the health of others at risk.

<sup>1</sup> Available here: [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings\\_06-18-2020.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings_06-18-2020.pdf). The Guidance was issued pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-25-20, which directed all Californians to, among other things, “heed any orders and guidance of state and local public health officials, including but not limited to the imposition of social distancing measures, to control the spread of COVID-19.” See Executive Order N-25-20 (issued March 12, 2020, available here: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.12.20-EO-N-25-20-COVID-19.pdf>). See also Executive Order N-60-20 (issued May 4, 2020, available here: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/5.4.20-EO-N-60-20-text.pdf>).