Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)*

*The answers to these questions are based on the Shelter-in-Place Order effective November 17, 2020

All residents are encouraged to refer to the State “Stay home Q&A” (https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/) and the Blueprint for a Safer Economy (https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/) to find out the status of activities and businesses permitted in our County according to the applicable Tier.

**Is this mandatory or is it just guidance?**

The Shelter-in-Place Order is mandatory. All individuals (and businesses) must follow County and State Health Officer orders which are issued under the authority of California law. As a condition of re-opening, current orders require, among other things, local businesses’ compliance with state and local industry-specific guidance and submission of self-certification forms. State statute explicitly provides that Health Officer orders may be enforced by the local sheriff or other peace officers of the County. Violation of the orders may subject a person or business to criminal or civil penalties, as well as other legal consequences. In particular, any businesses that violate the Health Officer’s orders risk committing negligence *per se* and expose themselves to civil liability for all damages created by any viral transmission that occur at their places of business.

As of August 28, 2020, the state released a Blueprint for a Safer Economy with revised criteria for loosening and tightening restrictions on activities based on a four part tier for the level of risk of COVID-19 measured by the daily new case rate per 100,000 population and rate of positive tests. Mendocino County returned to the Widespread risk level, purple tier on November 16, along with most of the State, (after only two weeks in the Substantial tier). In the Widespread tier, many non-essential indoor business operations are closed because we have more than an average of 7 daily new cases per 100,000 population (with a 7-day lag, and adjusted for number of tests performed). (https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/).

We urge all residents to closely follow the restrictions in both the County and State Health Orders.

Download the [Order to Shelter-in-Place](#) for complete details.

For Shelter-In-Place Business questions, visit our heading below 'General FAQs.'

**GENERAL/INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES FAQs**

**What is the Blueprint for a Safer Economy?**

On August 28, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom introduced the Blueprint For A Safer Economy. Every county in California has been assigned to a tier based on two metrics: the rate of new cases and the positivity rate. At a minimum, counties must remain in a tier for at least three weeks before moving forward. Data is reviewed weekly and tiers are updated every Tuesday. If a
county’s metrics worsen for two consecutive weeks, it will be assigned a more restrictive tier. The four tiers in order of most restrictive to least restrictive are:

- Tier 1: Widespread (Purple)
- Tier 2: Substantial (Red)
- Tier 3: Moderate (Orange)
- Tier 4: Minimal (Yellow)

For more information on tier and sector guidelines, visit the CDPH Blueprint Activity and Business Tiers web page.

For more information and State Frequently Asked Questions relating to the Blueprint for a Safer Economy visit the Blueprint For A Safer Economy web page.

**In which Tier is Mendocino County?**

As of November 16, 2020, Mendocino County is in Tier 1: Widespread (Purple), the most restrictive tier, in which many non-essential indoor business operations are closed.

**How do I find out which businesses activities can open in Mendocino County and which restrictions apply to each business activity?**

The Health Officer’s current Order allows business activities to open/operate (1) if the activity is in a sector/industry that is open in the assigned Tier of the State Blueprint for a Safer Economy; (2) the business conforms to the State COVID-19 Industry Guidance which applies to its sector/industry; and (3) the business has self-certified. In order to find out which businesses are open at any given time, (and since this may regularly evolve), individuals and business owners should first visit the State website for the Blueprint for a Safer Economy (https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/), enter “Mendocino” to see an alphabetical list of all activities/industries. In order to look up specific activity or industry, individuals can enter the specific industry to narrow the list. Each activity/industry has a link to the applicable State COVID-19 Industry Guidances. The State COVID-19 Industry Guidances may also be found by visiting https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/.

**Is Self-Certification still required for all businesses operating in Mendocino County?**

Yes. Prior to opening, businesses which have not yet self-certified must do so in accordance with paragraph 8c. of the Mendocino County Order (https://www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=37424). The self-certification form with required attachments must be filed with the County either through the website (https://www.mendocinocountybusinesses.org) or by mailing a completed certification form (with any required attachments) to: County of Mendocino Environmental Health, 860 N. Bush Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.

**My business already self-certified when we were allowed to reopen earlier in the summer. Does my business have to certify again now that we are in the new Blueprint for a Safer Economy?**
No. Businesses which have already self-certified and re-opened before the new Order, do not have to submit a new self-certification. However, all businesses must follow State Guidances and are responsible for regularly reviewing the State website to determine any changes or restrictions to their industry, which they must follow.

**What does it mean to “shelter-in-place”?**

The term “shelter in place” means to stay in your home and not leave unless necessary. The term “shelter in place” means to stay in your home except for permitted work, local shopping or other permitted errands and activities authorized by the local and state orders. Everyone should limit movements to essential outings. Allowable reasons to leave your home are to get food, to fill a prescription, to see a doctor, to go to work if your work is permitted in the order, to take your child(ren) to and from childcare that is authorized under the order, to help people you care for get the things they need to live, be healthy and stay safe, and to engage in outdoor recreation.

The County’s Public Health Order, consistent with the State Orders, requires people to stay home except for essential needs and other permitted activities, some of which include:

- Shopping at essential businesses and patronizing local retail establishments.
- Caring for a relative or friend.
- Getting necessary health care.
- Going to work at any business or other entity that is allowed to open.
- Engaging in outdoor physical recreation.
- Engaging in worship and protest activities.

It is important to note that vulnerable populations must still stay home except for essential needs (older adults, individuals with serious chronic medical conditions, and individuals with compromised immune systems).

**Why are we doing this?**

This is a critical intervention to reduce harm from the spread of the coronavirus in our community. **This is a mandatory order.**

The Mendocino County Public Health Officer has observed quickly mounting cases, serious illnesses across the region and cases of COVID-19 in our County.

Now is the time to do everything we can to prevent the situation from getting much worse in the upcoming days or weeks. Every hour counts. We need and appreciate the cooperation of everyone who lives and works in Mendocino County to act immediately.

While this news may feel alarming, it is a necessary step to prevent a worsening situation. The patterns of the virus around the world, and in our own state, tell us that moving right now to maximize social distancing and restrict people gathering is the best way to fight the virus and save lives.

*Please be patient and kind to one another. Together, we will get through this, and our community’s health will be protected.*
How long will we stay home?

The Health Officer’s order will remain in effect until rescinded. The Governor’s order is in effect until further notice.

The Health Officer will be closely monitoring the situation including directives from the Governor and State Public Health Officer every day in order to determine what adjustments make sense.

What is the difference between “sheltering in place” and “social distancing”?  

Sheltering in place is the extension of the social distancing. There are some differences. Sheltering in place means:

- Stay home (stay unexposed).
- Only go out for essential services and other permitted activities.
- Stay 6 feet or more away from others.
- Wear a facial covering in public.
- Limit most gatherings.

Social distancing will continue to apply when you are out shopping or walking or going to the doctor. These include washing hands, using hand sanitizer, disinfecting surfaces, not going out if sick, and staying at least six feet away from others.

Is Mendocino County open for all tourism? Can I travel within the county for tourism?

Mendocino County is permitted to now open certain business such as Lodging and Campgrounds for tourism and individual travel. The current State orders still require all people in California “to avoid traveling long distances for vacations or pleasure as much as possible”. The State urges Californians not to travel significant distances and stay close to home as much as possible to prevent further spread of COVID-19. Whether an individual can travel from their home county or state to engage in tourism, depends on their home's restrictions.

Visiting friends and family.

For your safety as well as their safety, we need to help each other fight the spread of COVID-19 by staying at home.

Care for elderly parents or friends or those who have disabilities.

Be sure that you protect them and yourself by following social distancing guidelines:

- Keep at least 6 feet of distance when possible.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue.
- Wear a facial covering.
- Wash hands before and after, or use hand sanitizer.
If you are in a vulnerable population, contact friends, family, or others you know who can provide support. They are permitted to pick up any of your needs.

**Who issued the Order?**

This order was issued by the Public Health Officer of Mendocino County. Public Health Officers have the authority under state law to issue orders to protect the health and welfare of everyone in their respective jurisdictions.

**Can the Order be changed?**

Yes. However, it can and will likely be updated as conditions warrant.

Please be sure to check the County website regularly to learn about updates and sign up for the [Mendo Alerts Nixle](https://www.mendoalerts.nixle.com) and [Everbridge](https://everbridge.com) text alert services.

We will also be sure to work with the media to share important updates and information.

**Why is this Order in place?**

This order was issued by Public Health Officer of Mendocino County. Public Health Officers have the authority under state law to issue orders to protect the health and welfare of everyone in their respective jurisdictions.

This order is in place to address the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Mendocino County. There is substantial community transmission of the virus in Mendocino County, which is easily spread between people.

Because the virus spreads so easily, without dramatic intervention like this order it would result in so many people needing medical attention in a hospital setting that our hospitals would be overwhelmed. We may not have enough beds or equipment to adequately care for the most seriously ill. Our health care workers and other first responders are also at risk, and if they got sick there would be fewer people to provide health care and first response services. For those reasons, it is critical that we now do everything in our power to prevent and slow the spread of the virus. Doing so will “flatten the curve” to slow the spread of the virus and help our health care system not be overwhelmed. If this succeeds, there will be health care available for those who get sick with COVID-19 or who need emergency medical care for accidents, heart attacks, strokes, and other routine medical conditions.

We all have to do our part now to protect everyone in the community. The best way to do that is to “socially isolate” yourself at home to avoid further spread of the virus.

**Why now?**

This order is issued based on evidence of increasing occurrence of COVID-19 throughout the region and the County, scientific evidence, and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, and evidence that the age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the
population of our County places them at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in the region, there is a public health emergency throughout the County. Making the problem worse, some individuals who contract the COVID-19 virus have no symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means they may not be aware that they carry the virus. Because even people without symptoms can transmit the disease, and because evidence shows the disease is easily spread, gatherings can result in preventable transmission of the virus. The scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it continues to be essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. One proven way to slow the transmission is to limit interactions among people to the greatest extent practicable. By reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this order helps preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the County.

**What if I am diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus or have been exposed to someone who was?**

If you have been diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus, you will need to be isolated to protect those around you.

If you were exposed to someone who was diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus, you should quarantine for the recommended time in order to not expose others in case you happen to have the virus yourself.

Please see the [COVID-19 Isolation Instructions](https://example.com) for more information.

**What Can I do? What is open?**

In accordance with the State and County orders, these services will remain open:

- Many County government services, police stations, fire stations, jails, courts, garbage/sanitation, transportation, utilities (water, power and gas). *Use online or mobile services whenever possible;*
- Healthcare organizations, such as hospitals, medical and mental health clinics, doctor offices, pharmacies, health care supply stores, and other health care facilities; Veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals;
- Educational institutions,—including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities—for purposes of facilitating distance learning (or in-person learning for grades TK-6 in schools with waivers approved by the State) or performing essential functions, such as providing meals;
- Daycare for Childcare Groups;
- Grocery stores limited to 50% capacity, certified farmers’ markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, etc., and other essential groceries such as household cleaning and personal care products and stores that sell pet supplies;
  - This includes stores that sell groceries and ALSO other non-grocery products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of our homes/residences. However, clothing may not be sold in any manner which would allow the customer to handle or try on before a purchase is made;
Self-service food items by shared utensils (e.g., tongs, ladles, shared condiment dispensers) are prohibited;

- Restaurants and other prepared food facilities, for delivery, carry out or curb-side pick-up, and outdoor dine-in services, and businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences as long as all COVID-19 precautionary measures are implemented;
- Retail establishments at 25% capacity, with curbside pick-up and delivery strongly encouraged;
- Pharmacies;
- Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities;
- Taxis, and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Order;
- Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
- Agriculture and food cultivation, including but not limited to, food and beverage cultivation, farming, ranching, fishing, forestry, livestock and legal cannabis and other medicines (and businesses that supply agriculture, food and beverage cultivation, processing and distribution);
- Licensed retail facilities/dispensaries, with curbside pick-up and delivery strongly encouraged;
- Banks and related financial institutions, such as check-cashing and money order services;
- Service providers that enable residential transactions (including rentals, leases, and home sales), including, but not limited to, real estate agents, escrow agents, notaries, and title companies, provided that appointments and other residential viewings only occur virtually or, if a virtual viewing is not feasible, by appointment with no more than two visitors at a time who are residing within the same household or living unit and one individual showing the unit (except that in-person visits are not allowed when the occupant is still residing in the residence);
- Garbage and sanitation services and collection;
- Hardware, home improvement stores, home appliance stores, nurseries, and plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining safety and sanitation;
- Laundermats and laundry service providers;
- Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate (i.e., office supplies, internet and telecommunication service providers);
- Home-based care for seniors, adults, disabled persons or children (however, skilled nursing facilities are not open to visitors at this time);
- Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
- Professional services, such as legal, notary or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with non-elective legally mandated activities;
- Childcare facilities and babysitters;
- Community benefit organizations on a case-by-case basis;
- Manufacturing businesses;
- Construction businesses;
- Certain “Limited Services,” such as pet grooming, dog walking, car washes, appliance repair, residential and janitorial cleaning and plumbing;
- Offices in all sectors, not only critical infrastructure, and where telework is not possible;
• Some recreational facilities such as parks, golf courses, equine and other animal-related facilities, dog parks and other facilities for outdoor recreation;
• Outdoor museums and galleries, and botanical gardens;
• Hair salons and barber shops for indoor services;
• Personal care services (esthetic and skin care services, electrology services, nail services, body art professionals, tattoo parlors and piercing shops, waxing, etc.) and massage therapy are open indoors with modifications;
• Places of Worship providing outdoor services;
• Funeral service providers for outdoor operations;
• Therapeutic services (massage therapy in a medical healthcare setting, chiropractic and acupuncture);
• Transient lodging (hotels, motels, vacation rentals, etc.);
• Tasting rooms (wineries, distilleries) for outdoor operations only;
• Bars, pubs and breweries only if offering sit-down, outdoor, dine-in meals
• Gyms and fitness facilities for outdoor operations only;
• Drive-in movie theaters;
• Family entertainment centers (bowling alleys, miniature golf, arcades) for outdoor operations only;
• Museums, zoos and aquariums for outdoor operations only;
• Campgrounds and RV parks;
• Any industry for which State Guidance has been issued and is not specifically prohibited by the Shelter-in-Place order.

You can go to the store to buy food for yourself, for those in your home, and for anyone else that needs help. This also includes medical supplies at a pharmacy and essential home maintenance supplies at a hardware or home improvement store.

You can also travel to pick up free food or necessary educational materials for children from schools throughout Mendocino County.

Wear a facial covering in public and help retailers maintain a 6-foot minimum distance between patrons, including by providing ample space while shopping and waiting in line.

Minimize unnecessary trips.

Are online stores and delivery still available?

• Mail and other delivery services to your home can continue to function, as can food delivery services.
• You can place more orders from online stores.

What can't I do?

The following sectors, businesses, establishments, or activities are not permitted to operate at this time:
- Indoor playgrounds such as bounce centers, ball pits, and laser tag and indoor family entertainment centers
- Live theater
- Saunas and steam rooms
- Indoor swimming pools
- Spectator sports and events
- Nightclubs
- Bars and pubs, unless offering sit-down, outdoor, dine-in meals
- Concert venues
- Festivals
- Theme parks
- Higher education institutions are closed for indoor lectures and student gatherings. Some courses conducted in certain indoor settings, like labs and studio arts, may be open
- Adult recreational team sports
- Indoor dining
- Indoor gyms and fitness facilities
- Indoor movie and live theaters
- Indoor personal care services
- Indoor places of worship and funeral services
- Indoor wineries and tasting rooms
- Indoor zoos, aquariums and museums

**Where does this apply?**

This is in effect across Mendocino County.

**Are parks open?**

Individual parks may be opened by the operator if social distancing protocols are put in place. Outdoor playgrounds (which are fully outdoors, publicly accessible, free to enter and use, and operated by a city, state, county or federal government), may open in all tiers according to the requirements of the State CDPH Guidance, for the requirements for outdoor playgrounds, ([https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Outdoor Playgrounds and other Outdoor Recreational Facilities.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Outdoor Playgrounds and other Outdoor Recreational Facilities.aspx)).

**Is this mandatory or is it just guidance?**

It is mandatory. This order is a legal order issued under the authority of California law. You are required to comply, and it is a misdemeanor crime not to follow the order. The intent is prevention of the spread of this deadly illness and protection of human life.

It is critical for everyone to follow the order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect themselves, their loved ones, friends, neighbors, and the whole community.

All persons, businesses, and other entities are required to comply if they do not fall within the exemptions that are specified in the Order.
What happens if I don’t comply with this Order?
This is a legally enforceable order issued under California law. It is a crime to violate this order, and you may be punished by a fine or imprisonment for doing so.

What if I need to get healthcare from my medical provider?
You can still get your health needs addressed. Contact your health care provider to see if they are providing regular services. Some services, especially elective procedures, may be postponed or canceled.

If you are feeling sick, please first call your doctor, a nurse hotline, or an urgent care center, if possible.

Do not go to the emergency room or a hospital unless you are having an actual emergency.

Can I leave home to visit friends or family members if there is no urgent need?
Yes. Unless the family and/or friends are members of your Stable Group, social distancing is required. Additionally, only small private outdoor gatherings of up to 3 households, with a maximum of 12 people are permitted by State and local orders.

Can I still get deliveries from online stores? Can I order from online stores?
Yes. The mail and other delivery services to your home can continue to function, as can food delivery services.

Yes, you can place more orders from online stores. Businesses that deliver goods or services directly to residences are essential businesses that may continue to operate.

Can I use ride share or on-demand services or a taxi?
Yes.

When using ride share or on-demand services or a taxi, you must wear facial coverings and maintain as much distance as possible from others.

Can I use public transport?
Yes.

Public transit will continue to operate on a limited basis. When using public transport, you must wear facial coverings and maintain at least 6 feet of distance - two to three steps away - including if you are on the bus or on trains.

Can I get my prescriptions or other health care needs? Can I leave home to go to the pharmacy to get my prescriptions filled?
Yes. Drug stores and other medical supply stores are allowed to operate. When possible, you should have the drug store deliver your prescription medicine to your home.
Can I leave home to care for my elderly parents or friends who require assistance to care for themselves? Or a friend or family member who has disabilities?

Yes. Be sure that you protect them and yourself by following social distancing guidelines such as wearing a facial covering, washing hands before and after, using hand sanitizer, maintaining at least 6 feet of distance when possible, and coughing or sneezing into your elbow or into a tissue, and then washing your hands. If you have early signs of a cold, please stay away from your older loved ones.

Can I visit loved ones in the hospital, nursing home, skilled nursing facility, or other residential care facility?

There are no local-specific restrictions on visitation in nursing homes/skilled nursing facilities, which are more restrictive than the State. Such facilities are regulated by the State and Federal government. CDPH Guidance for Limiting the Transmission of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities (AFL 20-22.5) dated October 23, 2020, states that indoor visitation is only allowed in the Substantial, Moderate and Minimal Tiers, among other restrictions (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-22.aspx). If you need to know more, please contact the facility you want to visit by phone before you leave your home.

What should I do if I’m sick and need to go to the hospital or a medical provider? How can I protect others?

Unless it is an emergency, if possible, walk or drive yourself to the healthcare. If someone else in your home can safely drop you off, that is another good option. You want to try to avoid exposing others to any germs you have, especially if you are seriously ill. If you need to go to the hospital or a medical provider, call ahead so they can prepare for your arrival if possible. If you need to call 911, tell the 911 operator the exact symptoms you are experiencing so the ambulance provider can prepare to treat you safely.

You should wear a facial covering if you have to go to the doctor or if you have Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) like a surgical mask or N-95 mask, you can wear that to prevent exposing others. Just do the best you can.

What if I can’t get out of the home? How can I get supplies and food?

Please contact friends, family, or others you know who can provide support. They are permitted to pick up any of your needs.

What medical and other health related activities are allowed?

People may obtain services at any hospital, clinic, dentist, pharmacy, pharmaceutical or biotechnology/medical device companies, other healthcare facility, healthcare supplier, home healthcare service, behavioral health provider, and any related healthcare service. Check with your provider for any limitations on in-person visits. Additionally, telehealth is encouraged to the extent possible.
What if I’m in a line and there are not six feet between me and others?
You should still try to maintain at least six feet between you and others. When that isn’t possible for short periods, do your best to keep the duration short. Be sure when you are in line that you don’t sneeze or cough onto people. If needed, cough or sneeze into your shirt or into your elbow with clothing on.

My child’s school is providing food or meals, can I leave home to go to the school to pick up the food or meals?
Yes.

Can I go shopping for things other than food/groceries?
Yes, however, you should minimize unnecessary trips and people are encouraged to take advantage of curbside pickup when available.

Can I go out to do laundry or have my laundry done?
Yes.

Can I go to the bank?
Yes, you can go to the bank. You should minimize unnecessary trips.

What are the social distancing guidelines I still need to follow?
The best way to reduce your risk of getting sick, as with seasonal colds or the flu, still applies to prevent COVID-19:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Avoid groups (stay at least six feet away from others).
- Reduce the time you are around others outside the home, even when at least six feet away.
- Regularly clean high-traffic surfaces.
- If you are sick, stay home unless you need to seek medical care in which case you should call ahead.
- Wear a facial covering.

When practicing social distancing, how far should I stay away from others if I must be away from my home?
At least 6 feet, which is appropriately two to three steps away, including if you are using public transportation. This is why it is important to only take public transportation for essential activities – you want to help everyone be able to practice social distancing.
Can I go to a bar/nightclub/theater?
Movie theaters can open for drive-in movies only, pursuant to specific requirements of the order. Bars, pubs and breweries may open only if they are offering sit-down, outdoor, dine-in meals. Other entertainment venues such as live theaters and concert halls/arenas must remain closed.

Can I go to a restaurant, café, coffee or tea shop, ice cream shop, or other food service location?
Yes. Restaurants may be open for outdoor dining, takeout and delivery. Such establishments should continue to encourage takeout and delivery services whenever possible.

How can I access free or reduced-price meals for myself or my family?
Schools, soup kitchens, food banks, and other entities that provide free or reduced-price food goods or meals to students or other members of the public are encouraged to continue providing these services. However, food provided by these establishments to the public may not be eaten on the premises but must instead be delivered or taken away for consumption.

Can I go to the gym, health club, dance, fitness or yoga studio?
These facilities are only permitted to open for outdoor activities.

Can I walk my dog/pet?
Yes. Be sure that you distance yourself at least 6 feet from other pets and owners.

Can I got to a vet or pet hospital if my pet is sick?
Yes. Be sure that you distance yourself at least 6 feet from other pets and owners.

What if my plumbing gets stopped up or there is another problem with necessary equipment at my home? How will I access those sorts of services?
Call your plumber or building manager. This order allows service providers like plumbers, electricians, and exterminators to keep working and providing their services to the public. To obtain supplies for a DIY solution, you can also visit a hardware store, which are allowed to stay open under this order.

Can I travel across the State or Country at this time to return a visitor to his or her home?
Travel for the purpose of allowing a non-resident to return to their residence is permitted.

Is recreational driving permitted under the Shelter in Place Order?
Yes.

Can I continue to follow custody court orders with the Shelter in Place Order?
Leaving your home in order to comply with a court order, including court ordered custody arrangements, is permitted.

**Can AA and NA meetings continue?**

Yes. AA and NA meetings are essential to health and are therefore permitted to continue under this order. Individuals are encouraged to use online AA meetings to the greatest extent possible. If online meetings are not available or individuals feel that an in-person meeting is essential to their health and well-being, they may attend in person. In-person meetings should comply with social distancing requirements.

**Can people leave home to volunteer at food banks or other services providing food?**

Yes. Food banks and food pantries are essential businesses that provide necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals. People may leave their homes to work or volunteer at these facilities. As with all permitted travel, however, individuals should comply with social distancing requirements to the greatest extent possible.

**Can lifeguard training occur during the Shelter-in-Place Order?**

Yes. Lifeguards are essential for public safety and training is permitted. However, to the extent possible they must employ all necessary emergency protective measures to prevent, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Are crabbing, fishing, and hunting permissible?**

Crabbing, fishing, and hunting are permitted for the purpose of obtaining food, and only in those areas which remain open and where such activities are permitted.

**Are charter boats allowed to operate under the Shelter-in-Place Order?**

Charter boats may operate only if they comply with all requirements for outdoor business. Additionally charter boats may only allow as many guest onboard as the boat can properly accommodate with at least 6 feet of social distancing between members of different households, living units, and Stable Groups. The operator must ensure proper sanitation and hygiene, including frequent disinfection of high touch surfaces, life vests and equipment and comply with all additional requirement provided in the Shelter in Place Order.

**Are boat launch ramps required to close?**

No. Boat ramps may be open if the operator establishes and posts a recreational safety protocol.

**May I move residences if my lease is ending, or if my landlord is allowing me to renew my lease, but I do not want to renew my lease?**

Yes. Moving residences is permitted under the Shelter in Place order.
Is surfing permitted under the Shelter-in-Place Order?

Surfing is permitted under the same circumstances as other outdoor exercise.

Are fitness classes allowed to take place such as through local gyms or recreational programs?

Yes, however, only outdoor group training classes and exercise classes may be offered. Additionally, all individuals participating must comply with the facial covering order, and the class size is limited to ensure a minimum of six feet of physical distancing between patrons and no person-to-person contact, except as allowed between members of the same household, living unit, or Stable Group. Gyms and programs must also follow the State COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Fitness Facilities, [https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-fitness.pdf](https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-fitness.pdf). Additionally, because engaging in aerobic exercise causes people to more forcefully expel airborne particles, facial coverings must be worn at all times, even when maintaining 6 feet of distance.

Are pool based classes for adults, such as water aerobics permitted?

Yes, however, these classes are only permitted at outdoor pools. Additionally, facilities providing these classes must follow the rules provided for gyms and fitness centers, including strict adherence to the “Additional Considerations for Swimming Pools/Aquatic Venues” referenced in the Industry Guidance: Fitness Facilities ([https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-fitness.pdf](https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-fitness.pdf)). Additionally, these classes must follow the requirements for public and shared pools provided in the Shelter-in-Place order, including limiting class size to 12 individuals and maintaining at least 6 feet of distance between all individuals.

May I practice yoga outdoors alone or in a group?

A person may practice yoga outdoors by oneself, or in a group if social distancing is maintained, and shared equipment is used only by members of the same household, living unit, or Stable Group. A person may only practice yoga without social distancing with other members of one’s own household, living unit, or Stable Group.

Is social distancing required while swimming in rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water?

Yes, social distancing should be maintained to the extent possible while swimming except for the members of your household, living unit, or Stable Group.

Can children’s sports teams resume practice?

Yes. However these activities must be conducted in accordance with the California Department of Public Health Youth Sports FAQ ([https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Youth-Sports-FAQ.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Youth-Sports-FAQ.aspx)); and all such extracurricular activities must follow guidance on cohorts for children and youth in supervised settings ([https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/small-groups-child-youth.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/small-groups-child-youth.aspx)). Additionally, facial coverings must be worn at all times, social
distancing must be maintained, and teams may not play other teams. Additionally, because in Mendocino County indoor fitness is not permitted, activities must take place outdoors.

**Are spectators permitted at children’s sporting events?**

Spectators at sporting events of all kinds are not permitted at this time. However, parents can observe their children who are participating in an outdoor stable cohort practice as long as they strictly follow social distancing of at least six feet between all members of different households or living units.

**Are dance, martial arts and other similar classes permitted for children?**

Yes. However these activities must be conducted in accordance with the California Department of Public Health Youth Sports FAQ (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Youth-Sports-FAQ.aspx); facial coverings must be worn at all times, social distancing must be maintained, and teams may not play other teams. Additionally, because in Mendocino County indoor fitness is not permitted, activities must take place outdoors.

**Can pools in living communities (condos, mobile home parks, apartments) open?**


**Can a musician or group of musicians play at a farmers’ market?**

This type of activity is not be permitted at this time because it would encourage people to gather.

**Are singing or similar activities at an event such as a church service permitted?**

The State does not permit singing at indoor church services. Even though singing is not prohibited at outdoor church services, places of worship and providers of religious services and cultural ceremonies should strongly consider discontinuing singing, group recitation, and other practices and performances where there is increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets because such activities may project droplets greater than six feet. If the venue chooses to sing outdoors, the venue must take measures to ensure that any additional risk of transmission of COVID-19 due to singing or any similar activity, is mitigated. Such measures may include the use of a plexiglass screen between singers in the same venue, distancing greater than six feet, the use of facial coverings, singing at a lower volume than a normal speaking voice, and ensuring singers are not positioned face-to-face.

**Are outdoor church services permitted at a Place of Worship if social distancing is maintained?**
Yes. However these services must follow all applicable rules provided by State Guidance for Places of Worship and Cultural Ceremonies (https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship--en.pdf). While we are in the Widespread Tier, only outdoor services are permitted.

**Are funerals and memorials allowed under the same rules a church services?**

Yes. Funeral and memorials are permitted subject to the same rules as indicated per state guidance for Places of Worship and Cultural Ceremonies. For the purposes of the State orders, mortuaries, cemeteries, funeral homes and similar facilities are considered places of worship, regardless of any religious affiliation or lack thereof. Funerals and memorials can occur at an outdoor location only while the County is in the Widespread (purple) Tier.

**Are churches allowed to have drive-in church services, where no one is exiting their vehicles and people are using their radios to listen to the service?**

Yes. See Guidelines for Drive-In and Drive-Through Events.

**Do livestreamed church services have to be on the grounds of a Place of Worship?**

Live stream church services that require the gathering of only the members of one’s household, living unit or Stable Group can be held at a location other than the grounds of a Place of Worship.

**In an outdoor drive-in church service where cars are 8-10 feet apart, can people have their windows down while they sing in their cars without facial coverings?**

Yes.

**Is childcare permitted during a religious service, at the same facility where the religious service is held?**

Yes, outdoor activities are permitted, and indoor activities are permitted if they comply with the childcare group and State cohort guidance.

**Can I hold a drive-in graduation?**

Yes. See Guidelines for Drive-in and Drive-through Events.

**Are outdoor events such as an organized picnic, with social distancing between families allowed?**

Such activity may only occur pursuant to State Guidance on Outdoor Private Gatherings, limited to no more than 3 households, with a maximum of 12 people (pursuant to local Order). Please refer State CDPH Guidance for the Prevention of COVID-19 Transmission for Gatherings (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-for-the-
May wedding venues (other than Places of Worship) open for in-person weddings?

Yes. For counties, like Mendocino, in the Widespread risk (purple) tier, wedding ceremonies (only) may occur outside (not indoors) at places of worship, which includes venues such as churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues, which traditionally engage in the practice of religious services or cultural ceremonies, in addition to secular locations. All such places of worship and providers of religious services and cultural ceremonies must follow the State Guidance [https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf](https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf), including, but not limited to the holding outdoor ceremonies only and requiring social distancing. Wedding parties and receptions are not permitted at any venues at this time.

Does the Order allow me to have my children in childcare? Will my daycare be shut down?

Childcare facilities may only operate if they comply with conditions of this order as they relate to child care, including those child care providers which are licensed by the State of California, Community Care Licensing Division, and should comply with the COVID-19 Updated Guidance: Child Care Programs and Providers [https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-childcare.pdf](https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-childcare.pdf), unless operating as a Day Camp and to that extent should follow the Guidance for the same [https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-daycamps.pdf](https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-daycamps.pdf). Additionally, to the extent possible children should be cared for in stable, age-appropriate groups of up to 14 children or youth and no more than 2 supervising adults, in accordance with the State Guidance for Small Cohorts/Groups of Children and Youth [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/small-groups-child-youth.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/small-groups-child-youth.aspx) and related FAQs [https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools-cohort-FAQ.pdf](https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools-cohort-FAQ.pdf). As explained in the Small Cohort guidance, guidance and directives related to schools, childcare, day camps, youth sports, and institutions of higher education are not superseded by the guidance for cohorts of children and youth and still apply to those specified settings.

Are nannies permitted to be used? What about other in-home child care?

Yes. Nannies are permitted.

I am currently on vacation outside the County—Does the Order allow me to return home?

Yes. You should maintain social distancing and wear facial coverings on your way home, and when you return home you will be subject to the limitations in this order. If you prefer to shelter in place at your current location, you are encouraged to follow this order while outside Mendocino County in order to protect yourself and others.

Can I leave Mendocino County to go on a planned vacation?

Yes.
While recreational travel is not prohibited, and businesses around the state are opening up, avoid travelling long distances for vacations or pleasure as much as possible. You are still encouraged to shelter in your place of residence. Traveling runs the risk of spreading the virus to other areas and exposing new populations.

What do I do about my kids? I have to work.

This order allows you to take steps necessary to take your children to authorized childcare. Otherwise, you should address childcare needs as you are able, given the constraints of the situation.

Can I leave home to exercise?

Yes. Gyms and similar facilities are permitted to open for outdoor activities. Additionally, other outdoor recreation facilities can be open. When leaving your residence to exercise you should take steps to avoid close contact with other people and wear a facial covering when required.

Are children (of any age) required to maintain social distance when recreating?

Yes. Unless the children are recreating with members of their own household, living unit, Household Support Group or Childcare Group, children must practice social distancing while recreating.

What outdoor activities are permitted?

You can engage in certain activities outdoors, but you should not play sports indoors or play team sports, unless done with members of your own household, living unit, or Stable Group.

Sports or activities that include the use of shared equipment may only be engaged in at private residences, by members of the same household or living unit, or Stable Group and in a multi-family shared living space, and if equipment is disinfected between uses.

Sports that are permitted include but are not limited to (as long as you maintain at least six feet from anyone else and don’t share equipment except as described above):

- Yoga on your own (no sharing blocks or mats)
- Running alone or with others with distance
- Riding your bike (alone/with distance)
- Walking (alone/with distance)
- Stretching
- Swimming in the ocean or in outdoor swimming pools
- Animal-related recreation
- Disc golf
- Golf
- Tennis
- Kayaking and canoeing
- Horseback riding
- Skateboarding
- Sports activities with members of your household, living unit, or Stable Group

Who counts as a family member?
A family member includes anyone you live with, anyone who is a legal relative of yours, or anyone you treat as a family member.

What do I do about my loved ones who need care from me?
You are permitted to provide care or to help with getting supplies for loved ones. But don’t provide care or pick up supplies if you are sick and someone else can do it. If you are sick, please self-isolate or take other steps to prevent exposing anyone else to your illness.

Are spectators permitted at children’s sporting events?
Spectators at sporting events of all kinds are not permitted at this time. However, parents can observe their children who are participating in an outdoor, stable cohort practice as long as they strictly follow social distancing of at least six feet between all members of different households or living units.

How many stable groups may a person participate in?
A child or youth may be in a single stable Childcare Group (with up to 14 total children/youth and 2 supervising adults), a single stable Children’s Extracurricular Group (with up to 14 total children/youth and 2 adults), and a single stable Household Support Group (of up to 12 adults and children). However, children and youth may not participate in more than one of each type of permissible Stable Group. Please note that School based cohorts are not counted among the number a person may participate in. Adults may not supervise more than one type of stable group involving children (whether childcare or extracurricular groups) or participate in more than one Household Support Group. Notwithstanding the fact that a child could be in up to 3 different stable groups, totaling up to 44 total people, it is recommended that parents and youth attempt to minimize the size (to as small as possible) and number of their stable groups to reduce exposure such as coordinating with other families to have the same cohort of children participate in childcare and extracurricular activities, to the extent possible.

Can people horseback ride with other individuals?
People can only horseback ride with other individuals if social distancing is maintained and shared equipment is used only by members of the same household or living unit, or Stable Group. If the other individuals are part of the same household, living unit, or Stable Group, no social distancing is required and shared equipment may be used.

BUSINESS/EVENT FAQs
Why is the County Public Health Officer issuing an order that may affect businesses in my community?

The Prior Shelter Orders during this pandemic have been effective in ensuring Mendocino County’s hospitals had sufficient time to prepare for and maintain adequate hospital capacity to handle the anticipated initial surge of COVID-19 cases in our community. Our community, enterprises and institutions have demonstrated understanding and implementation of the activities needed for mitigation of disease transmission. This Order is needed to continue to mitigate increased COVID-19 transmission in our community.

Is the self-certification intended to impose additional liability on my business?

No. Although the self-certification process requires an acknowledgement that a violation of the health order may create liability, it is not the intent of the self-certification process to impose any liability other than what would already exists. The purpose of this acknowledgment is to further alert business owners to some of the possible consequences associated with violating the health order.

What if my business is not allowed to reopen statewide pursuant to the Blueprint for a Safer Economy or State COVID-19 Industry Guidances? Does this Order require that I shut down my business facility?

Businesses that are required to close may still continue to perform minimum basic operations, provided that employees maintain a distance of six feet from one another to the greatest extent feasible when carrying out:

- The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business’s inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, perform cleaning or other essential functions while wearing personal protective equipment (as appropriate), or for related functions.

- The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business to continue to work remotely from their residences.

- Those operations necessary for venues, such as concert halls, auditoriums, and playhouses, to enable a recorded and/or live-streamed event to be shared virtually with the public with the following limitations:

  1. Events at a single venue must involve not more than 6 individuals present for the live event, which must be the same 6 individuals for a 4-week period, for reoccurring events. All others must participate remotely, such as in separate vehicles or from their residences.

  2. Social Distancing Requirements should be maintained to the extent possible, including maintaining at least six feet of social distancing from other individuals (physical distancing not required for members of the same household), wearing facial coverings, frequently washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible, or using hand sanitizer that is recognized by the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as effective in combatting COVID-19, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

3. The venue should take measures to ensure that any additional risk of transmission of COVID-19 due to singing or any similar activity, is mitigated. Such measures may include the use of a plexiglass screen between singers in the same venue, proper ventilation, distancing greater than six feet, and ensuring singers are not positioned face-to-face.

What are the employment functions that are permissible under this Order?

Only businesses designated by the State Public Health Officer as Essential Workforce at (https://covid19.ca.gov/essential-workforce/) and those businesses allowed to reopen statewide pursuant to the Blueprint for a Safer Economy (https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/), subject to State COVID-19 Industry Guidances (See https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/), are permitted to operate, subject to the additional requirements outlined in the Health Officer’s order. The employees of these businesses may continue to work outside of their residences so that the businesses may continue to offer their goods and services. Employees of other businesses may report to work only to maintain “Minimum Basic Operations,” which are the operations necessary to the value of the business’s inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, perform cleaning or other essential functions while wearing personal protective equipment as appropriate, or for related functions.

Additionally, government employees who are designated as essential by their government employer may continue to work outside their residences. Any employees who work outside their residences should maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person whenever possible.

What do I do about my job which requires me to go to work?

Only businesses designated by the State Public Health Officer as Essential Workforce at (https://covid19.ca.gov/essential-workforce/) and those businesses allowed to reopen statewide pursuant to the Blueprint for a Safer Economy (https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/), subject to State COVID-19 Industry Guidances (See https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/), are permitted to operate, subject to the additional requirements outlined in this Order. If your work is not one of these types of businesses, you are not permitted to go to work and your employer is not permitted to require you to attend except for Minimum Basic Operations (discussed above). You may work from home if your work permits.

What does it mean that an employer may not allow an employee who is sick to work? Does this mean only an employee sick with COVID-19 or symptoms associated with COVID-19?

The Shelter-in-Place order prohibits an employer from allowing an employee who is known or suspected to be infected with COVID-19 or who is experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, to come to work. An employer is not required to send an employee home who is experiencing another medical condition such as seasonal allergies. For further information for employers on this subject, we recommend that you review the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which can be
Can employees who work at a business allowed to operate under the Shelter in Place Order walk, run, or bike during their break/lunch?

Yes. Employees working at a business allowed to operate under the Shelter in Place Order may walk, run, or bike during their break/lunch.

Are non-profit organizations allowed to continue operating?

Yes, provided they are among the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers designated by the State Public Health Officer. For example, nonprofit human service providers, especially for at-risk populations may continue to operate food pantries, providing housing for homeless residents, and many other critical services. However, these non-profits must use every precaution to prevent the spread of infection and follow social distancing as much as possible. Non-profits also may hold events as permitted under Minimum Basic Operations, or sell goods, with curbside pick-up and delivery strongly encouraged.

Am I allowed to leave the areas covered by this Order to travel to/from a job outside Mendocino County? Does this Order allow me to leave the County?

This Order allows all travel for urgent matters and to perform permissible work and activities. All travel must comply with the Social Distancing Requirements of the Order. Per State Orders, even though businesses around the state are opening up, avoid travelling long distances for vacations and pleasure as much as possible.

Can grocery stores, farmers’ markets, and other food retailers remain open?

Yes. Grocery stores (limited to 50% capacity), certified farmers’ markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and similar food retail establishments are encouraged to remain open to provide food and pet supplies to the public.

When visiting these establishments, please help retailers maintain at least a 6-foot minimum distance between patrons, including by providing ample space while shopping and waiting in line, and wearing facial coverings in all enclosed spaces.

Liquor stores that also sell food qualify as essential. We want people to have access to food wherever possible.

Can big box stores that sell groceries and essentials stay open?

Yes.

I work for an essential infrastructure organization—can I leave home to go to work?

Yes. “Essential Infrastructure” includes, but is not limited to, water, sewer, gas, electrical, roads and highways, public transportation, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the
provision of essential infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).

I work in healthcare operations—can I leave home to go to work?
Yes. “Healthcare Operations” includes hospitals, clinics, dentists, (including preventative dental care), pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, home healthcare services providers, mental health providers, COVID-19 testing locations, blood banks and blood drives, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. “Healthcare Operations” also includes veterinary care for pets, livestock, and other animals.

Can I keep working from home?
Yes, as long as your employer permits it.

Should hotels, motels, and other transient lodgings remain open or closed?
Hotels, motels, and other transient lodgings are permitted to open, but only under the requirements provided in State Guidances for the County’s applicable Tier.

Am I permitted to keep my Healthcare Operations Business open to provide non-urgent/non-emergency services?
The Shelter-in-Place order does not require Healthcare Operations to limit the services provided.

Can I travel, either within the County or from outside the County, to conduct repairs and maintenance that cannot be delayed, on a second home or vacation or other rental.
Yes. You may travel within Mendocino County or into Mendocino County to make repairs on a residence that is not your primary residence if the repairs are necessary to ensure that the residence is safe, sanitary, or habitable to the extent such construction or repair cannot reasonably be delayed. Similarly, you may travel to perform maintenance such as landscaping, or tree trimming but only to the extent necessary to maintain the habitability or sanitation, or the safety of residents, or the public (such as fire safety or tree trimming to prevent a dangerous condition), to the extent such activities cannot reasonably be delayed. However, in conducting these activities, you must take all reasonable steps to limit travel and time spent away from your primary residence.

Can a business that is allowed to operate under the Shelter in Place Order, and is moving into Mendocino County, start construction on an existing vacant commercial building in preparation for opening an essential business at that location, or start construction of a new commercial building that will be part of Essential Infrastructure or an Essential Business?
Yes, in accordance with State Guidance for construction.

Are acupuncturists and chiropractors permitted to provide services?
Acupuncturists and chiropractors are considered part of the State’s Essential Critical Workforce and are permitted to provide services. However, both the service provider and patient must wearing a facial covering and the service provider, clinic, and/or business ensures only one client is served per room at a time and establishes frequent disinfection, including between each client. To the extent such therapy involves treatment of the head, face, or mouth, additional protective measures are required, which may include installing a plexiglass or other physical barrier, or ensuring the provider also wear a face shield (in addition to a facial covering). Additionally, these business should follow all applicable health and safety protocols found at https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/.

Are massage therapists permitted to provide services?

Yes in accordance with State Guidance for Personal Care Services, https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/#personal-care-services. In addition, both therapist and patient must wear a facial covering. To the extent such therapy involves treatment of the head, face, or mouth, additional protective measures are required, which may include installing a plexiglass or other physical barrier, or ensuring the provider also wear a face shield (in addition to a facial covering).

Can a person provide clothing alteration services?

Yes. This type of service would be considered a limited service and should follow the relevant COVID-19 Industry Guidance located at https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-limited-services.pdf, to the extent applicable.

May a business sell self-serve beverage items such as fountain sodas and coffee?

No. Beverages should be dispensed by employees.

What kind of events can be held at a conference center that holds educational and training sessions, board of directors meetings and other types of events?

The types of events that can be held a conference center are those events which would be otherwise permitted by the order, including, required training or meeting for government agencies, Healthcare Operations, and other businesses allowed to operate under the Shelter-in-Place order, that cannot be held remotely. However, the number of attendees at such events should be limited to allow for 6 feet of space between each person; materials and equipment should not be shared among attendees, and facial coverings should be worn at all times. Also, training that are permitted are strongly encouraged to be conducted remotely or outdoors. Additionally, at this time, gatherings are still prohibited, and many businesses are compelled to conduct business outdoors.

Can a driving school operate?

Yes. This type of service would be considered a limited service and should follow the relevant COVID-19 Industry Guidance located at https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-limited-
Can a music teacher hold one-on-one music lessons?

Yes. This type of service would be considered a limited service and should follow the relevant COVID-19 Industry Guidance located at https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-limited-services.pdf, to the extent applicable. Instruction involving the use of wind instruments should be done with greater than 6 feet of distance between each person, and facial coverings should be worn at all times except while playing a wind instrument. Additionally, wind instruments cannot be shared and all other instruments must be disinfected if shared between more than one individual.

Are businesses that people use to send money internationally considered essential? Many of these are often located within other businesses.

Businesses used to send money internationally are essential businesses.

Is a pet grooming business allowed to operate?

Yes. These businesses should follow the relevant COVID-19 Industry Guidance located at https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-limited-services.pdf, to the extent applicable.

When should employees who are sent home ill or sent home because they are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 be permitted to come back to work?

Employees who have been sent home sick with symptoms associated with COVID-19 such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, should not return to work until they have been evaluated by their medical provider and cleared to return to work. If they have been ordered into isolation or quarantine, they may not return to work until they are released from isolation or quarantine. Further information on this process can be found at the following link: https://www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=33708

Employees who are at high risk from severe illness from COVID-19 should work from home, to the extent possible. They are not, however, required to be sent home if teleworking is not feasible.

If I have a meeting that I need to hold either for my essential business or as part of minimum basic operations, and not everyone can participate remotely, how should I hold the meeting?

Businesses should, to the extent possible, hold meetings virtually. This includes holding a meeting with as many participants as possible participating remotely.

If I work in Mendocino County and live in another county, or live in Mendocino County and work in another county, which County's shelter-in-place order should I follow to determine if my work is permitted?
Whether a particular type of work is permitted is determined by the County in which the work occurs.

**How can I deliver existing inventory to businesses and residences?**

The delivery of existing inventory can be done by any lawful means, including, but not limited to, mail, delivery service, or by employees.

**When conducting a real estate viewing or filming a virtual viewing do I have to make the residents leave the property while I do a virtual tour or can they practice social distancing such as going outside while the virtual viewing is being conducted, but staying on the property?**

When conducting a viewing or filming a virtual viewing for a real estate transaction, if the property is occupied, the current residents are not required to leave the property but must stay outside of the building during the viewing.

**Can I continue to operate an equine facility where members bring their horses and use the facility to work and train the animals?**

Yes. However, the facility must establish and post a Social Distancing and Hygiene Protocol, including the cleaning of shared equipment between uses and frequent cleaning of high touch points such as gates and other equipment as a condition of operation.

**Can a defense investigator interview witnesses in person?**

Yes. If a remote interview is not practicable. However, social distancing measures including keeping six feet of distance, wearing a facial covering, and washing hands or using hand sanitizer prior to entering, and after leaving the person's home should be employed.

**Am I allowed to operate my house cleaning business and/or hire someone to clean my house?**

Yes. Residential and janitorial cleaning services are permitted under the State and local orders.

**Can real estate offices be open to the public?**

Yes, but telework should be utilized to the maximum extent possible.

**Can a person travel to Mendocino County to set up a business that is not currently in operation but is a business that is permitted to operate under the current orders?**

Yes. As long as the business is one which is authorized to open pursuant to the State and local orders, one can travel to Mendocino County to open a new business.
Are recycling and household hazardous waste facilities part of the State’s Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce?

Yes.

Can I teach an in-person class, such as an art class outside for adults?

Yes. This type of service for outside classes would be considered a limited service and should follow the relevant COVID-19 Industry Guidance located at [https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-limited-services.pdf](https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-limited-services.pdf), to the extent applicable. Additionally, facial coverings must be worn as all times and all surfaces must be disinfected between students. Indoor in-person art classes for adults are not yet permitted by the State at this time.

Can out-of-town travelers, such as vacationers, use dialysis clinics in Mendocino County?

Individuals staying in Mendocino County for reasons permissible under this order may use local dialysis services. Additionally, the Shelter in Place order does not require a dialysis provider to refuse necessary services to any individual.

Are dog training classes permissible under the Shelter-in-Place Order?

Outdoor dog training businesses may operate as and should follow the relevant COVID-19 Industry Guidance located at [https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-limited-services.pdf](https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-limited-services.pdf), to the extent applicable. Additionally, facial coverings must be worn as all times and surfaces must be disinfected between classes.

Is pet boarding permitted under the Shelter-In-Place order?

Pet boarding is permitted.

What types of activities are permitted as part of home-based care for pet? Is grooming allowed?

All types of home-based pet care is permitted, including essential grooming, if included in home-based care. However, home-based care does not include mobile grooming services for purely aesthetic services.

Can a therapist such as a marriage and family therapist see clients in person under the Shelter-in-Place order?

Yes, with proper social distancing, including facial coverings, and sterilizing between clients.

Are services for disabled adults permitted?
Services for disabled adults are permitted. However, social distancing should be maintained, and facial coverings worn, to the extent possible. Additionally, any group activities should be done in stable groups of no more than 6 individuals.

What guidance can I follow if there is no industry specific guidance for my business?

If there is no industry specific guidance applicable to your business you must self-certify, https://www.mendocinocountybusiness.org/, and look to regulation governing all business, including the requirements for a Social Distancing and Hygiene Policy and general guidance provided by the State, https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance

Can salons operate tanning beds?


Can racetracks/speedways operate?

Yes, but with limitations. Racetracks and speedways, must, prior to opening, establish social distancing and health/safety protocols that must be posted at the site, including prohibitions, on access and use established by the Health Officer, government, or any other entity that manages such an area to reduce crowding and risk of transmission of COVID-19. Additionally spectators are not permitted and the facility must have sufficient restrooms to allow for adequate social distancing.

Are swap meets permitted under the Shelter in Place Order?

Swap meets are permitted only if the person holding the sale complies with all rules required for retail establishments, including self-certification prior to the sale.

Are yard/garage/estate sales permitted?

Yard/garage/estate sales are permitted only if the person holding the sale complies with all rules required for retail establishments, including self-certification prior to the sale.

Can a retail establishment put sales racks up outside in front of the business?

Yes, as long as this can be done in compliance with all requirements for retail establishments provided in the State Guidance for retail, https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-retail.pdf.

Are businesses required to use the signage posted on the County website, or just have signage with similar language?

Businesses are required to post their Social Distancing & Hygiene Protocol and must also post additional County signage regarding required social distancing and use of facial coverings (in
both English and Spanish), which is attached as Appendix A-2 to the order, and can be found on the business resource page for the County (https://www.mendocinocounty.org/business/business-resource-for-covid-19). A business can supplement with its own signage with substantially similar information.

**Is a sole proprietorship with no employees required to complete the self-certification process?**

Yes, all businesses open under the Shelter in Place Order must complete the self-certification process.

**Does the Shelter in Place Order allow a private organization open a shelter for fire evacuees?**

Yes. However self-certification is required. Additionally, to the extent that the shelter provides congregate living similar to a homeless shelter, the shelter should follow the rules provided in the Health Order for homeless shelters, including Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Interim Guidance Responding to Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Among People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extraprecautions/unsheltered-homelessness.html). If the shelter is providing camping, the shelter must follow the rules provided in the Health Order for camping, including COVID-19 Industry Guidance (https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-campgrounds.pdf). Except that capacity limitations do not apply to sheltering evacuees.

**Is singing allowed in livestreamed events that are permitted under minimum basic operations?**

Yes. Pursuant to local orders, singing is allowed. However the venue should take measures to ensure that any additional risk of transmission of COVID-19, due to singing is mitigated. Such measures may include the use of a plexiglass screen between singers in the same venue, proper ventilation, distancing greater than six feet, and ensuring singers are not positioned face-to-face. All venues should regularly review the state requirements to ensure singing is permitted (https://covid19.ca.gov).

**Are single family vacation rentals required to post County signage that requires facial coverings and physical distancing?**

A sign requiring facial covering and physical distancing while staying at the single family vacation rental is not required. However, these businesses should post signs directing the use of facial coverings and social distancing in accordance with County rules.

**Is screening of guests required at single family vacation rentals?**

No. However, guests should be advised to self-screen before arriving and to not travel if sick with a fever, cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms.
Are galleries required to close indoor operations?

No, galleries can operate in accordance with the COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Retail, https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-retail--en.pdf, including capacity restrictions of 25%, and all other requirements of our local orders.

Can a brewery still sell growlers and other items for off-site consumption?

Yes, this would be considered a retail operation. However, growlers can only be refilled if this can be done without requiring employees to handle the customer’s bottle(s).

Who determines whether it is feasible to conduct a real estate viewing remotely? Does the real estate agent decide or the current occupant?

The real estate agent would determine whether a virtual viewing is feasible. However, the real estate agent is strongly encouraged to work with the current occupants to make this determination and encouraged to consider the concerns and situation of the current occupants in determining whether an in-person viewing is required.

When an employer sends an asymptomatic employee home because of possible exposure, how long does the employer need to require the employee to stay home. Do we have to require the person to stay home for 14 days and then take a test, and wait for a negative result?

Per State Guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and local quarantine orders, employees who are identified as a “close contact” of a case of COVID-19, (i.e., live with, provide care to, or were within 6 feet of a case for more than 10 minutes) should be quarantined at home for 14 days after the last known close contact with a case of COVID-19. Employees should be instructed to monitor for symptoms and upon experiencing any symptoms to consult with their healthcare provider, and subsequently follow the requirements of the isolation order. Isolation orders require those who are suspected of having COVID-19 (due to a positive test and/or symptoms associated with COVID-19) to self-isolate at home for 10 days, and at least 3 days (72 hours) after symptoms have subsided. Proof of a negative test should not be required prior to returning to the workplace.

Would everyone praying at a religious service at the same time be considered chanting?

Yes. Chanting would be any time that a group of people are speaking together in unison.

Can a place of worship hold an outdoor ceremony somewhere other than on the grounds of the place of worship?

State and local orders do not prohibit places of worship from holding an outdoor service at a location off the grounds of the place of worship. However, the place of worship must obtain
permission from the property owner and comply with all applicable safety regulation including
that the grounds can accommodate sufficient social distancing, hygiene and disinfection pursuant
to State Guidance (https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf), and there are
sufficient parking and restroom amenities to accommodate the increased capacity with all
appropriate social distancing.

**Are businesses allowed to open indoor pools, saunas, spas, hot tubs, and steam rooms?**

No. While Mendocino County is in the Widespread risk (purple) tier, only outdoor pools may be
open with modifications. All saunas, spas, indoor hot tubs, and steam rooms must remain closed.
According to State Guidance for Hotels, Lodging, and Short-Term Rentals hot tub operations
with individual, private outdoor hot tubs for hire must limit their use to one household group at a
time. Guests should remove face coverings while they are in the hot tub due to the likelihood
they will become wet, but must wear them as required when outside of the hot tub. Between hot
tub uses, operators should collect any unused towels for laundry and clean and disinfect high
touch surfaces.

**Are public events, such as rodeos, carnivals or fairs allowed to re-open while Mendocino
County is in the Widespread tier?**

Rodeos, carnivals and fairs are gatherings, which are prohibited at this time. Gatherings are
defined as meetings or other events that bring together persons (whether spectators or
participants) from multiple households in one space, indoors or outdoors. That space could be as
large as an arena or as small as a private home. On May 25, 2020, in an effort to balance First
Amendment interests with public health, the State Public Health Officer created an exception to
the prohibition against mass gatherings for faith-based services and cultural ceremonies as well
as protests. However, for counties in the Widespread (purple) Tier, these limited categories
(faith-based services, cultural ceremonies and protests) are only permitted outdoors, and all
participants are required to wear facial coverings and ensure physical distancing of at least 6 feet
between persons from different households at all times.

**May nonprofits hold a drive-through fundraiser, such as a staggered curb-side pick-up of a
to-go meal?**

Yes. Drive-through events, such as a fundraiser involving a pre-sale, staggered curb-side pick-up
of a to-go meal, is permitted, provided that all mitigation measures are implemented in
accordance with the Guidance for Drive-In and Drive Through Events
(https://www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=35460), and that all participants
comply with the facial covering order.

**While we are in the Widespread (purple) Tier, may outdoor playgrounds open?**

Please refer to State CDPH Guidance, for the requirements for outdoor playgrounds,
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Outdoor Playgrounds and
other Outdoor Recreational Facilities.aspx). Outdoor playgrounds (which are fully outdoors,
publicly accessible, free to enter and use, and operated by a city, state, county or federal
While we are in the Widespread (purple) Tier, are seasonal or holiday family outdoor recreation businesses, such as pumpkin patches, corn mazes, holiday tree lots, permitted to open?

Family entertainment centers and related recreation are allowed outdoor only, with certain modifications, as outlined in the state guidance for family entertainment (https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-family-entertainment--en.pdf). The operator must limit occupancy to the number of people as appropriate to ensure proper social distancing and that customer groups must be limited to a household, living unit, or Stable Group. Additionally, it is recommended that timed or advanced reservation systems be utilized whenever possible to stagger customer visits help maintain social distancing. Additionally, in accordance with State and CDC Guidances such recreation areas may not open ball pits, foam pits, climbing structures, enclosed bounce houses, etc., because these areas promote congregation and are difficult to properly disinfect between uses. To the extent any such businesses also include a restaurant or retail element, the applicable State Guidances for the same must be followed according to the respective tiers.

Are tutoring programs permissible indoors, and if so, what is the maximum size?

Tutoring programs are permitted in accordance with the State Guidance Related to Cohorts (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/small-groups-child-youth.aspx) and the CDPH related FAQs. FAQs (https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools-cohort-FAQ--en.pdf). According to State Guidance and FAQs, cohorts are limited to no more than 14 students, with no more than 2 supervising adults in a supervised environment or a configuration of no more than 16 individuals total (children and youth or adults) in the cohort. The number of students and staff who make up a cohort should be based on student needs. Cohorts can - and often will - be smaller than 14, staffed by 1 or 2 consistent adults. For example, a cohort could be 6 students with 1 adult or 8 students with 2 adults that stay together throughout the day. In addition, a cohort can be divided into subgroups of students that may interact with one another during the day, as long as there are no more than 16 individuals in that cohort overall. In addition, groups must be no larger than can be accommodated by the space available in the facility to provide at least 6 feet of distance between each person, including staff, but in no instance larger than 16 individuals total. The smaller the group, the less risk of spreading the disease.

While we are in the Widespread (purple) Tier, are outdoor in-person events (such as a fundraiser) permitted?

No, this would be a gathering, unless the event complies with the Guidelines for Drive-In and Drive-Through Events. Gatherings are defined as meetings or other events that bring together persons from multiple households at the same time in one space, indoors or outdoors. That space could be as large as an arena or as small as a private home. The State has only created an
exception to the prohibition against mass gatherings for faith-based services and cultural ceremonies, as well as protests.

Although gatherings are otherwise banned, the County permits events with a limited number of individuals practicing social distancing to be recorded or live-streamed so that multiple individuals can participate remotely, including in their vehicles. Drive-Through Events should comply with all rules similar to curbside pickup including but not limited to encouraging social distancing during pick-up, e.g., loading items directly into a person’s trunk; taking steps to minimize shared contact points; and using facial coverings. Please refer to the Guidelines for Drive-In and Drive-Through Events, (https://www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=35460) for information on the requirements.

**Does the provision on minimum basic operations, which allows indoor-live-streamed events in accordance with certain protective measures, create any additional restrictions on permissible faith-based services or cultural ceremonies?**

No. Currently, faith-based services or cultural ceremonies may only occur outdoors and in accordance with State Guidance, while the County is in the Widespread (purple) Tier. The provision regarding live-streamed events continues to allow businesses, including places of worship (or providers of cultural ceremonies), which prefer to continue remote services within the limitations of the local order, such as restricting the live portion to no more than 6 individuals present (who are within a stable Work Group over a 4 week period for reoccurring events). All others must participate remotely, such as in separate vehicles or from their residences.

**Are hotels, lodging, and short-term rentals required to verify reservations of shared accommodations are restricted to members of the same household or Stable Group?**

The local order does not contain such a restriction. Please refer to State COVID-19 Industry Guidance specific to Hotels, lodging, and short-term lodging rentals for any specifics required by the State Orders (https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/).

**Are vacation rentals required by State or Local order to drain hot tubs between each use?**

No. However, operations must closely follow the State Guidances and current assigned Tier for any restrictions, including as to hot tubs. (https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/#hotels-guidance)

**May barbershops offer straight razor shaving?**

Please refer to State Guidance on Personal Care Services, (https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-expanded-personal-care-services--en.pdf) Although there is no direct reference to shaving, such facial service appears to be similar to "esthetic and skin care services" which recommend a face shield for eye protection (with a face covering) when providing clients treatment on facial or neck areas that do not enable the client to wear a face covering. This section also provides that disposable gloves should be worn throughout the
entire esthetic services and while performing cleaning and disinfection of all implements and surfaces after each client session.

**What is the difference between the Shelter in Place Order and the Blanket Isolation and Quarantine Orders?**

The Shelter in Place Order pertains to individual and business activities that are permitted in our County in accordance with the State of California’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy (and additional local requirements) which provide the criteria for loosening and tightening restrictions on activities. The Blanket Isolation Orders apply to all individuals in Mendocino County who have or are likely to have COVID-19, and who must isolate (or stay at home and separate from others) in order to keep others safe and prevent others from getting ill. The Blanket Quarantine Orders apply to any individuals who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 (someone who has been within 6 feet or less for 15 minutes or more cumulatively over a 24 hour period). Such close contacts must quarantine for 14 days from the last time they were in close contact with a person who has COVID-19.

**Are all “essential workers” exempt from the requirement to quarantine if they were in close contact of a person with COVID-19?**

No. Only asymptomatic health care workers or asymptomatic first responders who are not known to be infected (but are close contacts of a person with COVID-19) and work for facilities experiencing crisis level shortages (in reference to CDC Guidance [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/mitigating-staff-shortages.html]), may return to work during the 14 day quarantine period and only if the facility strictly complies with additional conditions (in cooperation with County Public Health) as referenced in the Order ([https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/mitigating-staff-shortages.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/mitigating-staff-shortages.html)). Please keep in mind that when permitted this case-by-case exemption, any such asymptomatic health care workers and first responders may only attend work, must wear masks at all times, and must otherwise remain at home during the entire isolation period.

**FACIAL COVERING FAQs**

**The Use of Cloth Face Coverings Helps to Slow the Spread of COVID-19.**

CDPH and Local Health Officer Orders require people to wear face coverings when they are outside of the home, unless an exemptions applies. CDPH issued revised mask guidance on November 16, 2020 ([https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx)).

**Does the CDC Recommend Wearing Face Coverings?**


**What Can I Fashion a Cloth Face Covering From?**
The CDC recommends cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost.

Can I Put a Cloth Face Covering on a Child?
CDPH mandates that very young children (persons younger than two years old) should not wear cloth face coverings. Similarly, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance should not wear facial coverings.

How do I Clean/Sterilize my Cloth Face Covering?
The CDC states that all face coverings should be washed regularly depending on the frequency of use. A regular washing machine is suitable for the proper washing of a face covering.

How do I Safely Remove a Used Cloth Face Covering?
The CDC states that individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their face covering and wash hands immediately after removing it.

Where Can I Find Directions to Make a Cloth Face Covering?
If you would like to follow the CDC recommended instructions for making a cloth face covering please go to https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html

How to Wear a Cloth Face Covering:
- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face.
- Be secured with ties or ear loops.
- Must cover the nose and mouth when outside your home (Don’t wear your mask under your nose or just on your chin).
- Include multiple layers of fabric.
- Allow for breathing without restriction.
- Allow for being laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

In what specific settings are people exempt from wearing Face coverings?
- Persons in a car alone or solely with members of their own household or living unit.
- Persons who are working in an office or in a room alone.
- Persons who are actively eating or drinking provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.
- Persons who are outdoors and maintaining at least 6 feet of social distancing from others not in their household. (Such persons must have a face covering with them at all times and must put it on if they are within 6 feet of others who are not in their household or living unit.
- Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
- Workers who are required to wear respiratory protection.
- Persons who are specifically exempted from wearing face coverings by other CDPH Guidance.

**Which individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings at all times?**

- Persons younger than two years old. These very young children must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance. Such conditions are rare.
- 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.
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.

Note: Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.

**For Work Groups of no more than 6 individuals that are allowed to operate without facial coverings, pursuant to their employer’s adoption of a protocol (section 17 of the County’s Order requiring members of the public to wear Facial Coverings), how much public contact triggers the face covering requirement?**

Any contact with the public triggers the requirement to wear facial coverings. The exception to the facial covering requirement is intended for workplaces where employees do not interact with members of the public while at work. Infrequent contact with individuals outside of the Work Group is permitted, however, employees may not be without a facial covering if contact is so frequent that it would be impractical to don a facial covering each time someone from outside the Work Group is present.

**If there are glass/plastic partitions between employees and the public, are facial coverings required?**

Workers enclosed in a work area so that they are completely separated from airborne exposure from the public or coworkers, for example in a plexiglass enclosure, are not required to wear a facial covering while working in that enclosure, even if they do interact with the public while in that enclosure. A mere plexiglass screen is not sufficient.

**Do people need to wear facial coverings while they are sitting in cubicles?**
Yes. Unless the cubicle is designed such that its walls extend fully to the ceiling and floor, and its opening does not face the opening of any other cubicle, or unless employees are Work Groups where members of the public are not present and contact with individuals from outside the Work Group is infrequent. However, facial coverings are required any time a member of the public is present.

**Would a full face shield be an acceptable face covering?**

Yes, A face shield, i.e., a piece of rigid, clear plastic attached to a headband which covers the entire face extending from the forehead to below the chin is an acceptable alternative, preferably with a cloth extension stretching from shield to shirt, and tucked in. However, the Health Officer recommends that a face shield with a mask protects the user, more than the mask alone, and would be an added protection for people who cannot maintain 6 foot distance. The Health Officer notes that when a face shield is used without a mask, a face shield is not as protective to others as the mask.

**Do individuals need to wear facial coverings before they enter and while inside an indoor facility or other enclosed open space other than their residence, even if they are able to social distance?**

Yes. Facial coverings are a supplement to social distancing rather than a replacement. Facial coverings are required indoors, unless an exception applies.

**Are facial coverings required in high traffic outdoor spaces such as parking lots or sidewalks?**

Yes, persons are required to wear facial coverings in high traffic outdoor areas when they are unable to maintain a six-foot distance from other persons at all times.

**Are delivery workers, including for food delivery, required to wear facial coverings?**

Delivery workers must wear facial coverings when coming within 6 feet of another individual, when inside any building, or when in a vehicle with another person who is not a member of the same household, living unit, or Stable Group.

**What can I do when someone comes into my business without a facial covering?**

The Mendocino County Health Officer's Order requires every business to inform its visitors that they are required to wear facial coverings. Businesses are permitted to refuse service or entry to any person who fails to wear a facial covering. The only exception is that if some other law specifically requires service to a customer without as mask. To the best of the County's knowledge, no Federal or State agency has opined that any business is required to serve a customer without a mask, but businesses are encouraged to review the latest COVID-19 information from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission at:

[https://www.eeoc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.eeoc.gov/coronavirus)
Additionally, California's Department of Fair Employment and Housing has COVID-19 related guidance available at:

https://www.dfeh.ca.gov/covid-19-resources-and-guidance/

Syracuse University has also published a discussion of how COVID-19 issues relate to the Americans with Disabilities Act at:


The statements and opinions published by these entities are their own, and do not constitute legal advice from the County of Mendocino

**Are employees preparing and service food and beverages required to wear facial coverings at all times?**

Yes. The Mendocino County Health Officer's Order requires any employee engaged in the preparing, handling, or serving of food to wear a facial covering, such as a cloth mask or plastic face shield, for the entire time that they are engaged in that activity. Employers whose employees are unable to wear one or more type of facial covering due to medical reasons should consult guidance from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Department of Fair Employment and Housing, or consult a private attorney to determine what other methods might be available for them to accommodate the employee.