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TRAINING BULLETIN

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Mandatory Cloth Face Coverings for Staff, Visitors and Inmates

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently provided recommendations on the use of cloth face coverings to slow the spread of COVID-19. The recommendations state in part: *CDC is advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others¹.*

What is a cloth face covering?

A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. A cloth face covering may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels².

Who must wear a cloth face covering?

Effective immediately, anyone entering a sheriff detention facility must at a minimum wear a cloth face covering (i.e. all staff, inmates, visitors, arresting officers, etc.). Inmates must always wear face coverings outside of their cells or anytime when interacting with staff. Based on CDC guidelines, N-95 masks will be reserved for select sworn and all medical staff only. The recommendations state in part: *cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance³.*

Non - Sworn employees not assigned to the medical services division are welcome to bring their own cloth face coverings to work. These face coverings must present professionally. Face coverings will be provided to all employees upon request through their chain of command.

Sworn employees are required to wear PPE issued by their supervisor.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

² https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/covid19/Addendum_regarding_face_coverings_and_public_parks.pdf

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

This Training Bulletin was prepared by the Detention In-Service and Medical Services Division Training Units. If you have expertise in a particular subject and would like to write a training bulletin, please contact the Detention In Service Training unit at [REDACTED]



Who must wear an N-95 Mask?

Following CDC guidelines, all MSD staff (nurses, contract staff, mental health clinicians, etc.) must wear a mask (N95) when present within a detention facility and a mask (N-95) and gloves when participating in direct patient care. Additionally, N-95 masks are always required for sworn staff working in the following areas or assignments:

- High Risk (as identified by the Medical Services Division)
- Medical Isolation Overflow
- Intake/Medical Screening/Booking
- All facility and hospital transportation runs
- Anytime a deputy has direct contact with an inmate suspected of COVID-19 (i.e. symptomatic).