



For Immediate Release
July 28, 2020

Monterey County Approves Fines for Face Covering Order Violations

Monterey County is joining with other local cities in approving fines for face covering violations.

Today, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an ordinance, effective immediately, allowing for fines for those disregarding the state face covering health order for all areas in unincorporated Monterey County.

Monterey County's Health Officer issued a face covering order in April and the State Department of Public Health issued guidance for face coverings in June but enforcement of these orders remains a challenge.

Fines would be administrative citations not criminal proceeding and would start at \$100, \$200 for a second violation, and \$500 for subsequent violations. Repeated violations could also be prosecuted as a misdemeanor in the discretion of the District Attorney. People given a citation have the option to pay the fine or appeal the citation and have a hearing before an administrative law judge.

Today's approval also allows the county to hire temporary workers as may be needed to enforce the health order.

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