

Temporary Requirement to Use Face Coverings on RTA Vehicles

The RTA Executive Director has issued an emergency order requiring face coverings effective 6:00 AM on Sunday June 14, 2020 and continuing until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended. Under this order, all individuals must wear a face covering when at RTA bus stops or on RTA transit vehicles. This applies to all RTA, SoCo Transit, Paso Express and Avila Trolley fixed-route buses, as well as on all Runabout vans and the Dial-A-Rides vans operated in Nipomo, Paso Robles, Shandon and Templeton. Failure to abide by this requirement could result in denial of service and other sanctions identified in the *Passenger Code of Conduct* policy.

A “face covering” means a covering made of cloth, fabric or permeable materials, without holes, that covers only the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face. Examples of face coverings include a scarf, neck gaiter, homemade covering made from a t-shirt, sweatshirt, or towel, or a mask (which need not be medical grade). It may be factory-made or handmade from household materials.

Any mask incorporating a one-way valve (typically a raised plastic cylinder about the size of a quarter on the front or side of the mask) that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling is not a face covering under this order. These one-way valve masks cannot be used to comply with this order because the valve permits respiratory droplets to easily escape, which places others at risk.

This order does not apply to any child aged two years or less because of the risk of suffocation. This order also does not apply to certain individuals because:

1. a medical professional has advised the individual that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to the person for health-related reasons; or
2. the individual has trouble breathing, is incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

An RTA representative may deny you service on a transit vehicle unless you provide assurance that you qualify for one of the exemptions above.

If you cannot afford a face covering, a limited number of face coverings are available for free at the following Sheriff and Cal-Fire locations:

1. 201 Cayucos Dr., Cayucos, CA
2. 2099 10th St., Los Osos, CA
3. 450 Pioneer Ave., Nipomo, CA
4. 1681 Front St., Oceano, CA
5. 4671 Broad St., SLO, CA
6. 635 No. Santa Rosa St., SLO, CA
7. 356 N. Main St., Templeton, CA

A limited number of single-use masks will also be available on buses until supplies are exhausted. Please help us slow the spread of COVID-19 by also following CDC guidelines on social distancing, staying home if you exhibit symptoms of the disease, and frequently cleaning/sanitizing your hands.