



**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA  
AMENDING PRIOR ORDER MANDATING THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS  
IN INDOOR PUBLIC SETTINGS TO ALLOW PERFORMERS AND PUBLIC  
SPEAKERS AT EVENTS TO REMOVE THEIR FACE COVERINGS UNDER  
SPECIFIED CIRCUMSTANCES**

**ORDER NO. HO-COVID19-56**

**DATE OF ORDER: September 1, 2021**

**Summary of the Order**

This Order of the Health Officer amends Health Officer Order No. HO-COVID19-51 to allow performers and public speakers to remove their face coverings while performing or making presentations at events that take place in public indoor settings, provided that all persons present who are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination are fully vaccinated and specified social distancing requirements are observed, effective immediately.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040 AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA ("HEALTH OFFICER") ORDERS:

- 1. Basis of Order.** On August 2, 2021, I issued Health Officer Order No. COVID19-51 ("Prior Order"), which requires all persons to wear face coverings in indoor public settings in Contra Costa County ("County"), with certain exceptions, to prevent the spread of the virus that causes Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19"). On August 6, 2021, I amended the Prior Order to provide an exemption for persons participating in certain religious activities.

At the time of issuance of the Prior Order, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations were surging in the County, justifying a strict face covering order with limited exceptions. While COVID-19 hospitalizations remain elevated, they have decreased in the last two weeks. Hospitalizations in the County appear to have peaked on August 17, 2021, when 221 patients were hospitalized, 64 of them in intensive care units. On August 28, 2021, hospitalizations had decreased to 211 patients, 55 of whom were in intensive care units. Given this progress, I have determined that the face covering mandate may be further eased. Specifically, I have



determined that performers and public speakers at indoor events may remove their face coverings while engaged in their performances and presentations, provided that all attendees at these events are fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine and social distancing requirements are observed.

2. **Amendment.** Health Officer Order No. HO-COVID19-51 is hereby amended by adding subsection f. to Section 4, to read as follows:

f. When performing or engaging in public speaking at an indoor event, provided that:

- (1) The event operator has verified that all persons at the event are fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine, except for children under 12;
- (2) If the person is a performer, the person is at least six feet away from all other persons at the event other than performers, and maintains as much distance from other performers as possible; and
- (3) If the person is a public speaker, the person is at least six feet away from all other persons at the event.

3. **Effective Date and Time.** This Order takes effect immediately upon issuance.

4. **Copies; Contact Information.** Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the Office of the Director of Contra Costa Health Services, 1220 Morello Avenue, Suite 200, Martinez, CA 94553; (2) posted on the Contra Costa Health Services website (<https://www.cchealth.org>); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order. Questions or comments regarding this Order may be directed to Contra Costa Health Services at (844) 729-8410.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**



Chris Farnitano, M.D.  
Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa

Dated: September 1, 2021

