

ORDER NO. 2020-6

**SAN JUAN COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER ORDER
REGARDING COVID-19; AMENDING ORDER NO. 2020-4 REQUIRING THE
WEARING OF CLOTH FACE COVERINGS**

WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person which may result in serious illness or death and has been classified by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has spread throughout Washington State, including San Juan County, significantly threatening the life and health of persons in San Juan County;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 can spread from people without symptoms, including persons who are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic, to others;

WHEREAS, in the absence of interventions to limit the spread of the disease, for every case of COVID-19 in the community we can expect 2.5 more cases in the community, leading to a dramatic increase in the number of cases over a short period of time;

WHEREAS, there are currently no known medications or vaccinations that are effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as social distancing and the wearing of cloth face coverings, are presently the only effective measures to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the two primary modes of transmission of COVID-19 are surface contact routes and respiratory droplets from infected individuals;

WHEREAS, respiratory droplets from infected individuals can be transmitted not only through coughing or sneezing but also through other actions including talking or breathing;

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington as a result of COVID-19 outbreak in the United States and confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State;

WHEREAS, since February 2020 Governor Inslee has issued a series of proclamations related to COVID-19 that place limitations on gatherings, business and leisure activity, and travel, including Proclamation 20-25, "Stay Home -Stay Healthy," adopted on March 23, 2020 ("Governor Proclamation 20-25");

WHEREAS, the Governor established a phased approach known as "Safe Start Washington" beginning on May 5, 2020, which provides for gradual increases over time in allowable business and leisure activity, travel, and gatherings with an emphasis on

simultaneously minimizing the health impacts of COVID-19, reducing the risk of COVID-19 to Washington's most vulnerable populations, and preserving capacity in the health care system;

WHEREAS, San Juan County is a popular travel and leisure destination which experiences a large influx of visitors throughout the year, particularly in and around the summer months;

WHEREAS, San Juan County moved from Phase I to Phase II of the Safe Start Washington plan on May 23, 2020, which results in a substantial increase in the levels of allowable business and recreation activities together with a substantial increase in the amount of permissible travel to San Juan County, including non-essential travel as authorized by the Safe Start Washington plan;

WHEREAS, the possibility of dangerous outbreaks of COVID-19 locally is substantially greater when there is an increase in travel to San Juan County, particularly if there is also an increase in business activity;

WHEREAS, widespread use of cloth face coverings to cover the mouth and nose, also known as non-surgical face masks, is recommended in the Governor's Safe Start Washington plan and can help to control the spread of COVID-19 by reducing the transmission of respiratory droplets from infected individuals into the environment from asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic individuals, particularly in public spaces where social distancing is not possible or unpredictable, such as indoor businesses;

WHEREAS, it is difficult for children under two years old to safely wear a cloth face covering, and further the most recent data shows that young children are less likely to become seriously ill and have apparent lower transmission rates of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, RCW 70.05.070 requires and empowers the local health officer to take such action as is necessary to control and prevent the spread of any contagious or infectious diseases within the jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, WAC 246-100-036, requires the local health officer, when necessary, to institute disease control measures as he or she deems necessary based on his or her professional judgment, current standards of practice, and the best available medical and scientific information; and

WHEREAS, San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-4 was adopted on May 19, 2020 to require the wearing of cloth face coverings in certain situations;

WHEREAS, in order to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in San Juan County and protect our most vulnerable populations, in my professional judgment, based on the current standards of practice and the best available medical and scientific information, San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-4 should be modified to establish exceptions to face covering requirement for medical settings and for children inside a day care, preschool, summer camp, or similar businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Frank James, Local Health Officer for San Juan County, under the authority of RCW 70.05.070, RCW 43.20.050, and WAC 246-100-036, and on the basis of the foregoing recitals, make the following ORDER:

San Juan County Health Officer Order 2020-4 Section 2, Cloth Face Coverings Required, is amended to read as follows:

Owners and operators of businesses in San Juan County shall not permit or allow any non-employee to enter or remain inside a building owned or operated by the business unless the non-employee is wearing a cloth face covering over their mouth and nostrils. This Section 2 does not apply to a restaurant, tavern, or bar patron while eating or drinking. Further, businesses that sell food, medicine, or medical supplies shall provide a method for customers to purchase these items without entering a building, such as curbside pick-up or delivery.

The following exceptions apply to this Section:

No person is required to wear a cloth face covering in a medical setting such as a hospital or dentist's office when doing so would not be medically appropriate for the wearer or would interfere with medical care.

Children under the age of two are not required to wear a cloth face covering.

Children between the ages of two and twelve are not required to wear a cloth face covering when inside a day care, preschool, summer camp, or similar business when doing so would not be developmentally appropriate as determined by the child's parent, guardian, caregiver, or an employee of the business with supervision of the child.

All other provisions San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-4 remain in full force and effect. This order does not terminate or modify any civil or criminal liability that exists on the effective date of this order.

Any violation of this order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine and arrest and imprisonment up to 90 days pursuant to RCW 70.05.120.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further order of the County Health Officer following a determination that the wearing of cloth face coverings is no longer necessary.

DATED this ___ 25 ___ day of May, 2020 at ___ 10:53 ___ p.m.



FRANK JAMES, M.D.
SAN JUAN COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER