

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee
The Governing Board, Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority

Date: July 9, 2020



From : Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA

Subject: **Compliance with Health Orders within Los Angeles County and State Owned Land**

Background: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is well known; moreover increasing scientific evidence points toward airborne transmission of the virus.

See <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02058-1> and references cited therein.

This fact is of special concern in the management of recreation areas such as trails, picnic areas, parking lots, and points of interest where it is difficult and frequently impossible to consistently maintain the six foot social distance between non-household members that is required by health department orders.

The Los Angeles County Health Officer, Dr. Muntu Davis, MD (UCLA), MPH (Harvard), has found that, “[w]earing a cloth face covering reduces the risk of transmission to others who do not have symptoms and do not know they are infected.”

The current Health Officer Order (Revised 7-4-20) is found here:

http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/HOO/2020.07.01_HO%20Order_COVID-19_Safer%20at%20Work%20and%20in%20the%20Community_updatedappendices.pdf

In addition to the six foot social distancing requirement, “all persons [shall] wear a cloth face covering over both the nose and mouth whenever they leave their place of residence and are or can be in contact with or walking near or past others who are non-household members in both public and private places, whether indoors or outdoors.” [Emphasis added.]

Authority: This order is issued according to the recommendation of the Chief Staff Counsel and is promulgated by authority of the Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to “administer the affairs of the conservancy” pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 33212 of the Public Resources Code and subdivision (b) of Section 33211.5 of the Public Resources Code that provides, *inter alia*, “[t]rails, campsites, and other public use areas on property owned or subject to the management of the conservancy shall be designated and

posted with prohibited activities and use restrictions clearly indicated, including, but not limited to . . . other activities that affect the safety of visitors, campers, [and] trail users”

With respect to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, this order is issued by the Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy acting *ex officio* as Executive Officer of the Authority pursuant to Section 10.1 of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement.

SOCIAL DISTANCE AND FACIAL COVERING ORDER (LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND STATE LAND)

Summary:

- All persons shall maintain a safe *social distance* of at least six (6) feet wherever possible on park and open space property.
- All persons shall wear a *cloth face covering* over both the nose and mouth whenever they are or can be in contact with or walking near or past others who are non-household members in public spaces, whether indoors or outdoors.
- The foregoing provisions apply to all park and open space property within Los Angeles County owned or managed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, any joint powers authority for whom the Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy serves as the Executive Officer, and land--wherever situated--owned by the State of California acting by and through the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Exemptions:

- Children under two years of age;
- Persons with a disability affecting masking, and generally any other person exempted by the Los Angeles County Health Officer Order (Revised 7-4-20) cited above;
- Persons in residential property or office space, provided that rules otherwise applicable to such space are complied with.

Internet Notice: This order shall be available on the World Wide Web pages of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and other convenient social media platforms.

Posting: Signs clearly conveying the general content of this order shall be prominently posted at park entrances, trail heads, and parking areas.