



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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News

For immediate release:
Release #20-019 / 125 / 1

Friday, June 26, 2020

COVID-19
**Kitsap County Sheriff's statement concerning
statewide face coverings order**

PORT ORCHARD, Wash. -- Kitsap County Sheriff Gary Simpson released the following statement, June 25, regarding Washington State Secretary of Health Order 20-03, dated June 24, 2020:

"The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office has been receiving calls and inquiries regarding the updated state directives on face mask requirements in response to the recent Washington State Secretary of Health order regarding the requirements of wearing of face coverings. The statewide face covering order is a public health and safety measure. It is not a mandate for law enforcement to detain, cite or arrest violators.

"The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office has not cited, detained, or arrested any citizen because of recent health directives issued by the State of Washington or the Kitsap County Health District and will continue to focus on education and partnership with our community to respond to the public health crisis. We encourage all citizens of Kitsap County to make safety-focused decisions and follow health-based directives."

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Washington State Secretary of Health Order 20-03 may be read here: [SecHealth20-03](#)

Continued, pages 2 and 3

Frequently Asked Questions: Face Mask Enforcement

Q1. Should I say something if someone near me isn't wearing a face covering?

A1. No. Someone may have a medical reason for not wearing a face covering. Whether those around you are wearing face coverings or not, focus on keeping six feet of distance between you and washing your hands often.

Q2. What should I do if I see someone not wearing a mask?

A2. Nothing. Some people have conditions or circumstances that would make wearing a cloth face covering difficult or dangerous. Just wear your mask and stay six feet away.

Q3. Why aren't the police enforcing the state's mask order?

A3. During these challenging times, remember that we're all in this together and each of us must do our best to be our best. Local law enforcement agencies and public officials are focused on education and community engagement regarding state orders related to COVID-19 and the best ways our community can limit the spread of COVID-19 and recover from the pandemic.

As noted by the Washington State Patrol: "The statewide face covering order is a public health and safety measure, it is not a mandate for law enforcement to detain, cite or arrest violators but rather an evidence-based and safety focused directive meant to slow the spread of a potentially deadly disease."

If you have concerns about individuals not wearing masks, you may visit www.kitsappublichealth.org/concern to submit a concern to the Kitsap Public Health District.

Q4. Where can I get more information about wearing a mask?

A4. <https://www.coronavirus.wa.gov/information-for/you-and-your-family/face-masks-or-cloth-face-covering>

Q5. What should I do if I have a concern about employees at a business not wearing masks?

A5. For concerns about employees at a business you may contact the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries Safety Call Center: 1-800-423-7233 or via e-mail to adag235@lni.wa.gov.

Q6. What should I do if I have a concern about the State's mask order?

A6. Please contact the governor's office at (360) 900-4111.

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