



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
300 N. San Antonio Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

P R E S S R E L E A S E
December 20, 2017

News Media Contact:
Mask Information Line: 805-681-4373

WHEN DO I NEED TO USE MY N-95 MASK?

(Santa Barbara, Calif.) – Santa Barbara County residents should keep their N-95 masks on hand as air quality may continue to be affected by the Thomas Fire smoke or ash. Ash may continue to be blown into the air during periods of high winds during the next weeks or months. Residents should also protect themselves by using an N-95 mask while cleaning up ash.

The general public and those with health conditions affected by air quality do not need to wear an N-95 mask if the air quality index is “good”. The public and especially those with health conditions affected by smoke or ash are urged to continue to monitor air quality at www.ourair.org .

N-95 masks are available for purchase locally or online and are available at no charge at the following sites **December 18-23rd**:

Site	Location	Distribution Days
Goleta Valley Community Center	5679 Hollister Avenue Goleta	Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, December 23 rd 10 a .m. – 4 p.m.
Goleta City Hall	130 Cremona Drive Goleta	Monday –Thursday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. No Friday distribution
Santa Barbara Public Library	40 Anapamu Street Santa Barbara	Monday – Thursday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Friday 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Carpinteria Library	5141 Carpinteria Ave Carpinteria	Monday 10 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Buellton CVS	218 East Hwy 246, Buellton	Monday – Sunday 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. (normal store hours)

The holiday distribution schedule for December 23 – January 3 is shown below:

Site	Location	Distribution Days
Goleta Valley Community Center	5679 Hollister Avenue Goleta	Tuesday, December 26 – Sunday December 31, 10:00 a.m. – 7 p.m. Closed December 24 – December 25 and January 1
Buellton CVS	218 East Hwy 246, Buellton	Monday - Sunday 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. (normal store hours) <u>EXCEPT</u> Monday, December 25 – 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

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Over 300,000 N-95 masks have been distributed to communities in Santa Barbara County affected by unhealthy levels of smoke from the Thomas Fire. Mask distribution continues to be a collaborative effort of Direct Relief, the Santa Barbara Medical Reserve Corps, area Cities and CERT volunteers, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, and libraries.

Remember, N-95 masks require a tight seal to be effective. As a result the available adult sized masks will provide only limited protection for most children. N-95 masks when fitted properly provide some protection from the fine particles in smoke. Ordinary dust masks and surgical masks do not provide this protection. Individuals with heart and lung conditions should consult their health care provider before using an N-95 mask.