



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

July 24th 2020

Contact: Lt. Ryan Higgins

Office: 208-446-2245

PIO Cell: 208-758-1045

sopio@kcgov.us

Panhandle Health approved mandatory mask order

Additional Information

Our 911 Center is receiving many calls related to questions about mask wearing. We'd like to take a moment to remind the community that 911 should be used when you are experiencing an emergency. If you have a question about mask wearing or the mask mandate, please contact the **Panhandle Health District at 877-415-5225 or go to <https://panhandlehealthdistrict.org/>**

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho: On July 23rd 2020 the Board of Health for the Panhandle Health District approved an order making face masks mandatory in Kootenai County. For specifics about the order and the exceptions to wearing a mask, please go www.panhandlehealthdistrict.org. The Kootenai County Sheriff's Office is encouraging the community to educate themselves on what the order says by going to the above website as there are several exemptions.

By state law, this order is a misdemeanor offense that could result in a fine or possible jail time. With that being said, the Sheriff's Office is responsible for enforcing the laws of the State of Idaho and Kootenai County. Therefore any Covid 19 mask wearing violations will be dealt with on a case by case basis. We will favor education over enforcement and will take a measured response to enforcement with a strong focusing on warnings.

If you have a question about the order and it's parameters you are asked to contact the Panhandle Health District at 208-415-5100.

Sheriff Ben Wolfinger

By: Lt. Ryan Higgins