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April 18, 2020 – COVID-19 Update

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UC Hastings Law SAN FRANCISCO

April 18, 2020

San Francisco Department of Public Health (“SFPDH”), in concert with Contra Costa, Marin, Alameda, San Mateo, and Sonoma counties, announced on Friday, April 17, 2020, that, effective April 22, 2020, face coverings will be mandatory for everyone outside the home or outside a private vehicle (See, [San Francisco Department of Public Health Order No. C19-12](#); the “Order”). Exceptions to the Order are limited. Specifically, face coverings are not required for children 12 years or younger, and are prohibited for children who are two years or younger due to potential for suffocation. While adults are not required to wear face coverings while exercising outdoors, the Order recommends having a face covering available in case it becomes necessary. A face covering is not required for a single individual located within a private office within an essential business as long as the public does not regularly visit the room. And, an individual is exempted from wearing a face covering if a medical professional has advised that wearing a face covering could pose a risk to an individual due to health-related reasons.

Where Face Coverings are Required

This Order, and similar orders throughout the Bay Area, mandate wearing face coverings while performing essential work, riding public transportation, or taking care of essential personal business, such as seeking health care, or going to the grocery store, pharmacy, or other essential business, which includes, for our purposes, the UC Hastings Law campus. Essentially, a face covering is required anytime you are outside of your private home or private vehicle, and when you are with anyone other than your immediate family or residential unit. The face covering requirement does not negate the necessity for other health precautions already in place, such as staying at home, frequent hand washing, and maintaining a six-foot physical distance from others not in your immediate family or residential unit.

What Constitutes a Face Covering

The Order specifies that a face covering, “means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft permeable material, without holes, that covers only the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face.” Moreover, a face covering “may be factory-made, or may be handmade and improvised from ordinary household materials.” And the Order goes on to clarify that, “for as long as medical grade masks such as N95 masks and surgical masks are in short supply, members of the public should not purchase those masks as Face Coverings under this Order.” As we shared previously, there is lots of information online about how to make your own cloth face covering including [these instructions](#) from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”). Additionally, attached please an infographic on creating a face covering from cloth and rubber bands.

Timeline & Enforceability of the Order

Although the Order went into effect at midnight on Saturday, April 18, 2020, local officials will not start enforcing it until 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2020. Face coverings were previously

recommended by Chancellor & Dean David Faigman and the CDC. The Order now makes use of a face covering a requirement, and noncompliance is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine, imprisonment, or both.

On-Campus Employees & Residential Students

While the Order applies to everyone within the six Bay Area counties listed above, UC Hastings Law also wants to ensure that our on-campus community is aware that the College will enforce the Order at the UC Hastings Law campus in order to support the safety of our community. As such, anyone coming to the campus, including essential employees and residential students, must wear a face covering consistent with the Order. The exceptions to this rule are (1) for residential students inside their own residential unit and (2) essential workers alone inside a private office that is not regularly visited by members of the public. Additionally, there are certain limited exceptions for use of face coverings related to work as determined by regulators or workplace safety guidelines. If, as an essential employee reporting to campus, you have questions about applicability given your role, please contact Director of Human Resources Andrew Scott.

Also attached, please find the revised UC Hastings Law Social Distancing Protocol, which reflects the face covering requirement. The protocol and infographic are available, along with other information and resources, on the [UC Hastings Law COVID-19 My Hastings page](#). If you have any questions, please contact us. We remain ever grateful for the tremendous resiliency of the UC Hastings Law community. We will, as always, continue to keep you updated as information is available.

Rhiannon Bailard

Executive Director of Operations

UC Hastings Law

bailardrhiannon@uchastings.edu

(415) 581-8858 (o) | (310) 613-3176 (c)

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Andrew Scott

Director, Human Resources

UC Hastings College of the Law

ScottAndrewF@UCHastings.edu

Direct: 415-565-4812

Cell: 310-430-1095