



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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News Media Contact:

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FREE MASK DISTRIBUTION FOR FRIDAY/SATURDAY/SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15-17, 2017

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif) -- 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.

The N-95 masks will continue to be distributed to areas of the county experiencing air that is unhealthy or unhealthy for sensitive groups as measured by the Air Pollution Control District.

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. There is no charge for the mask.

The following sites will have N-95 masks available on Friday/Saturday/Sunday, December 15th-17th:

- Goleta Valley Community Center, (5679 Hollister Ave) 10am – 7pm – Fri./Sat./Sun.
- Goleta City Hall, (130 Cremona Drive) 9am – 12pm Friday only
- Santa Barbara Public Library (40 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara) 10 am-7pm – Fri./Sat.; Sunday 1pm-5pm
- Carpinteria Library 10am - 5pm, Fri./Sat.
- Buellton CVS, ask store staff (218 East Hwy 246, Buellton) 8 am-10 pm

N-95 masks require a tight seal to be effective and 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.

Please note that your mask can be used for multiple days provided it is not damaged. Agricultural and other outdoor workers may need to use a new mask daily.

