



## COVID-19 EMERGENCY REGULATION **REUSABLE BAG ORDINANCE SUSPENDED**

**Regulation Overview:** In response to the COVID-19 pandemic San Mateo County has issued an emergency regulation that suspends the charge for reusable and paper bags. The County's Health Officer prohibits bags brought in by customers to prevent the spread of the virus.

**Effective Date:** The Regulation and the Health Officer's Order takes effect immediately and will remain in place until further notice.

**Bags Allowed:** Reusable 2.25 mil durable plastic or 30% post-consumer recycled content paper bags provided by retailers.

**Prohibited Bags:** Reusable bags brought in by customers. Single-use plastic or paper bags that aren't made with recycled content paper.

**Bag Charges:** Retailers may suspend the 25-cent charge or may continue to charge for compliant bags at their discretion.

**Retailers Affected:** The regulation applies to all retailers in unincorporated and incorporated areas of San Mateo County. The towns/cities of Atherton, Woodside and Hillsborough are exempt from this regulation.

**Resources for Retailers:** Signs are available in English, Spanish, and Chinese at [smchealth.org/bagban](http://smchealth.org/bagban) to display on storefront windows to help educate customers about the new requirements.



To read the **Reusable Bag Ordinance Emergency Regulation** or for additional information, visit [smchealth.org/bagban](http://smchealth.org/bagban), or contact Environmental Health Services at **(650) 372-6200**.