



## Yuma County Sheriff's Office

**Leon N. Wilmot**  
Sheriff of Yuma County

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# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Proclamation regarding the wearing of face coverings in Yuma County

**Location of Incident:** Yuma, AZ

Yuma County Sheriff Leon Wilmot has issued the following statement in response to the proclamation regarding the wearing of face coverings in Yuma County issued today by the Chairman of the Yuma County Board of Supervisors:

*“As the Sheriff of Yuma County, I feel it is important to inform the public that I recognize the need to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and agree that facemasks are an important part of that plan.*

*However, I was not consulted by the Yuma County Administrator nor the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors regarding the enforceability of this proclamation and so I must inform you that my Office does not have the resources to respond to calls for enforcement action regarding the failure to wear face coverings.*

*Every year since I took office, I have petitioned the Board of Supervisors for additional Deputies to maintain public safety in Yuma County. As our County grows, so too should the ability of my Office to meet the growing demand for law enforcement services. Unfortunately, those repeated requests for additional manpower have been denied in all but the absolute rarest of circumstances.*

*Therefore, I will be unable to conduct any enforcement of this proclamation and will not divert manpower from emergency services to conduct face covering enforcement.*

*As your Sheriff, I would like to ask the citizens of Yuma County to voluntarily comply with proven measures recommended by our local Health Department experts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and work together to beat this pandemic.”*

If you have complaints about non-compliance with this directive, please contact the author of the proclamation, BOS Chairman Tony Reyes or County Administrator Susan Thorpe, directly at (928) 373-1010.

For updates and current information pertaining to COVID-19 in Yuma County, please visit the Yuma County website at [www.yumacountyaz.gov](http://www.yumacountyaz.gov) and click the Yuma County COVID-19 / Coronavirus 2019 link.

**Information Released By: Lt. Samuel Pavlak**

