

# MEDINA POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

**ORDER NO:** 2020-049

**SUBJECT:** Application of Spit Hood/Masks

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Aug. 1, 2020    **RESCINDS ORDER NO:**

**DISTRIBUTION:** Sworn Police Personnel

**PURPOSE:** The objective of this General Order is to establish a policy for the utilization of spit hoods/masks used on persons when they exhibit spitting or biting behavior, or threaten or attempt to spit or bite.

I.    **POLICY:**    The policy of the Medina Police Department is to ensure the safety of all officers, citizens, and suspects when using the spit hoods/masks. Careful consideration shall be made in regards to the circumstances, alternatives, and consequences for each individual situation.

## II.    **DETAILS:**

### A.    **Description and Utilization**

1.    The Medina Police Department will utilize the product “The Tranzport Hood” as the primary spit hood. A copy of the manufacture’s directions and warnings will be attached to this policy. Officers should refer to and follow these directions and warnings for any areas not outlined in this policy.
2.    When a subject demonstrates a spitting or biting behavior, or threatens or attempts to spit or bite on someone, should have a spit hood/mask placed over their head and face. A spit hood/mask is made of a mesh material as to not impede breathing or sight. A spit hood/mask can be categorized as a “hood” or “mask”
3.    When applying a spit hood, officers should take the necessary steps to control the head of the subject to prevent, or direct away from the officer or others, the subject from transmitting any fluids (saliva and mucous).
4.    The applying Officer will ensure that the see-through mesh portion of the spit hood is in a position to allow the subject nasal breathing and sight afforded by the mesh. The spit hood may be left on as long as the officer reasonably believes that the subject remains a spitting hazard.

5. As per the manufacture's recommendations, Officers utilizing the spit hood should maintain constant visual supervision of the subject and the wearer should never be left unattended. This monitoring will be documented on the prisoner custody log.
6. Although it does not preclude or prevent the use of a spit hood, extra monitoring should be provided to persons who are mentally unstable, elderly or very young, extremely intoxicated, have minor bleeding from face or head, or those who have recently been sprayed with Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol
7. Spit hoods should not be used in situations where the restrained person is bleeding profusely from the area around the mouth or nose, or if there are indications that the person has a medical condition, such as difficulty breathing or vomiting. In such cases, prompt medical care should be obtained. If the person vomits while wearing the spit hood, the spit hood should be removed, and disposed of. If the officer reasonably believes the person will continue to spit or bite, a new spit hood may be applied.
8. Once a spit hood is used on any individual, that spit hood shall be disposed of and no longer used.
9. Officers should provide assistance during the movement of restrained individuals due to the potential for impaired or distorted vision on the part of the individual.

## **B. Reporting Spitting Behavior of Subjects**

When lodging a suspect at the jail or transferring custody to another agency, and that subject has exhibited spitting or biting behaviors, attempted or threatened to spit or bite, and has been fitted with a spit hood and it has been removed prior to contact, notify that agency of the suspects behavior. If currently wearing a spit hood, the agency assuming control of the subject shall make the determination on if they would like the hood to remain on, or if they would like the applying officer/agency to remove the spit hood.

If a person is fitted with a spit hood because of spitting or attempting or threatening to spit, officers WILL include that in their SJS Incident Report narrative and the Prisoner Custody Report. A caution indicator should also be included in the suspect's SJS profile for adequate officer safety notification during future contacts.

By Order Of:

Chad Kenward  
Chief of Police