



County of San Diego

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AGENCY DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
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WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 101040, 120175, and 120175.5 (b) the Health Officer of the County of San Diego (Health Officer) **ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Effective 12:00 a.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2020, the following will be in effect for San Diego County (county):

All public or private “large gatherings,” as defined in section 11 below, are prohibited.

2. Effective 12:00 a.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2020, the following will be in effect for the county:

“Non-essential personnel,” as defined in section 11 below, are prohibited from entry into any hospital or long term care facility serving seniors. All essential personnel who show any potential signs or symptoms of COVID-19 shall be strictly prohibited from entry to hospitals or long term care facilities.

3. This Order is issued as a result of the World Health Organization’s declaration of a worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 disease, also known as “novel coronavirus,” which has infected at least 120,000 individuals worldwide in 115 countries and is implicated in over 4,000 worldwide deaths.
4. This Order is issued based on the increasing transmission of COVID-19 in California and the significant risk of widespread introduction and transmission of COVID-19 into the county.
5. This Order is issued based on scientific evidence regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, as well as best practices as currently known and available to protect vulnerable members of the public from avoidable risk of serious illness or death resulting from exposure to COVID-19. The age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the county places it at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 may place other

vulnerable members of the public—such as older adults, and those with underlying health conditions—at significant risk.

6. This Order will reduce the likelihood that many individuals will be exposed to COVID-19 at a single event, and will thereby slow the spread of COVID-19 in the county. By reducing the spread of COVID-19, this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the county.
7. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference: 1) the Declaration of Local Health Emergency issued by the Health Officer on February 14, 2020; 2) the Proclamation of Local Emergency issued by the County Director of Emergency Services on February 14, 2020; 3) the action of the County Board of Supervisors to ratify and continue both the local health emergency and local emergency on February 19, 2020; 4) the Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020; 5) Executive Order N-25-20 issued by the Governor of the State of California on March 12, 2020 which orders that “All residents are to heed any orders and guidance of state and local health officials, including but not limited to the imposition of social distancing measures, to control COVID-19; and 6) Proclamation 9984 regarding COVID-19 issued by the President of the United States on March 11, 2020.
8. This Order is issued to prevent circumstances often present in large gatherings that may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, such as: 1) the increased likelihood that large gatherings will attract people from a broad geographic area; 2) the prolonged time period in which large numbers of people are in close proximity; 3) the difficulty in tracing exposure when large numbers of people attend a single event; and 4) the inability to ensure that attendees follow adequate hygienic practices.
9. This Order comes after the release of substantial guidance from the Health Officer, the California Department of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other public health officials throughout the United States and around the world. On March 11, 2020, the California Department of Public Health recommended the cancellation or postponement of large gatherings of 250 people or more.
10. This Order comes after the CDC issued: “Interim Additional Guidance for Infection Prevention and Control for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Nursing Homes.”
11. For the purposes of this Order:
 - a. “Gathering” is any event or convening that brings together people in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, theater, large conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria, or any other indoor or outdoor space.
 - b. “Large gathering” is a gathering with 250 or more people.
 - c. “Long term care facility” is a facility serving adults that require assistance with activities of daily living and that is licensed by the California Department of Community Care and Licensing.

- d. “Non-essential personnel” are employees, contractors, or members of the public who do not perform treatment, maintenance, support, or administrative tasks deemed essential to the healthcare mission of the long term care facility or hospital. Non-essential personnel does not include first responders, nor State, federal, or local officials, investigators, or medical personnel carrying out lawful duties.
- e. This Order does not prohibit:
 - i. Normal operations at airports, shopping malls, or other spaces where 250 or more persons may be in transit. It also does not include typical office environments, retail stores, or grocery stores where large numbers of people are present but are able to practice social distancing of six (6) feet from one another.
 - ii. Gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building such as a multiplex movie theater or school, so long as 250 or more people are not present in any single confined space at the same time.
 - iii. Any gatherings of 250 or more people where all persons have the ability to keep a social distance of six (6) feet from one another.
 - iv. Emergency shelters, homeless shelters, or other similar essential gatherings that are for the protection of public health and safety and where appropriate precautions are taken that follow federal, State, and local public health guidance regarding COVID-19.
 - v. Entry of visitors at long term care facilities on a case by case basis, and upon the approval of the facility’s director, or designee, for extraordinary circumstances such as to allow family and friends to visit a resident in an end of life situation, and where appropriate precautions by the facility that follow federal, State, and local public health guidance regarding COVID-19 are followed.
 - vi. Entry of visitors, such as close family members at a hospital, and under the direction of the hospital administrator, or designee, so long as the hospital follows federal, State, and local guidance regarding COVID-19.
- f. Gatherings of less than 250 people are strongly encouraged to keep a social distance of six (6) feet from one another in conformance with California Department of Public Health guidelines.

12. Schools, colleges, and care facilities serving seniors and children are strongly encouraged to follow the guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health, as may amended, and available at:

<<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx>>.


13. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 120175.5 (b) all governmental entities in the county shall take necessary measures within the governmental entity’s control to ensure compliance with this Order and to disseminate this Order to venues or locations within the entity’s jurisdiction where a large gathering may occur.

14. Violation of this Order is subject to fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code section 120295.)

15. To the extent necessary, this Order may be enforced by the Sheriff or chiefs of police pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029.

IS SO ORDERED:

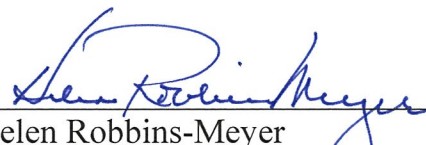
Date: March 12, 2020



Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Officer
County of San Diego

Pursuant to Government Code section 8634, and San Diego County Code Section 31.103, this Order shall be promulgated as a regulation for the protection of life and property.

Date: March 12, 2020



Helen Robbins-Meyer
Chief Administrative Officer
Director of Emergency Services
County of San Diego