

**SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER ORDER FOR THE CONTROL OF COVID-19
NO. C19-7c (REVISED) DIRECTING INDIVIDUALS IN THE COUNTY WHO ARE CLOSE
CONTACTS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH COVID-19 TO QUARANTINE THEMSELVES**

DATE OF ORDER: October 29, 2020

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. California Health and Saf. Code, § 120295, et seq.; Cal. Penal Code §§ 69, 148(a)(1).

SUMMARY OF THE ORDER

California is in a State of Emergency because of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic. The spread of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is a substantial danger to the health of the public within the County of San Mateo (“County”). COVID-19 can easily spread between people who are in close contact with one another. This Order is issued based on scientific evidence and 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 place it at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. There is growing evidence of transmission risk from infected persons before the onset of symptoms. Thus, all individuals who contract COVID-19, regardless of their level of symptoms (none, mild or severe), may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk. Currently, there is no specific treatment for COVID-19 and no vaccine available to protect against COVID-19 transmission.

To help slow COVID-19’s spread, protect vulnerable individuals, and prevent the healthcare system in the County from being overwhelmed, it is necessary for the Health Officer of the County of San Mateo to require the quarantine of persons exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. “Quarantine” separates and restricts the movement of persons who, while not yet infected with COVID-19, have been exposed to COVID-19 and therefore may become infectious. This Order addresses quarantine requirements. “Isolation” refers to the separation of persons who have been infected with COVID-19 from persons. San Mateo County Health Officer Order No. c19-6c concerns isolation requirements. This Order was updated on October 29, 2020, to expand the number of people deemed “close-contacts” for the purposes of notification and contact tracing based on new guidance from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and clarify the very limited circumstances when working is allowed.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SECTIONS 101040; 101085; 120130; AND 120175 OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:



1. All individuals who are close contacts, as described in Section 2 of this Order, must quarantine themselves and follow all instructions in this Order and the San Mateo Public Health (“Public Health”) guidance documents referenced in this Order. Self-quarantine is required because a person with COVID-19 can easily spread the virus to others. Quarantine separates potentially infected individuals from others to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

2. Persons must self-quarantine under this Order if they are notified, become or are made aware that they have been in close physical proximity with a person who is a Person with COVID-19, as defined in Health Officer Order c19-6c (Revised), during their infectious period, which begins 48 hours before symptoms began (or, in the absence of symptoms, on the date of a positive test) and ends when the Person with COVID-19 is released from Isolation pursuant to Health Officer Order c19-6c, (including as it may be further revised). For purposes of this Order, a “Close Contact” of a Person with COVID-19 includes any person who, during the Person with COVID-19’s infectious period:

- a. Lived in or stayed at the same residence as the Person with COVID-19 when the Person with COVID-19 was not following Home Isolation Instructions; OR
- b. Was an intimate sexual partner of the Person with COVID-19; OR
- c. Was within six (6) feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of fifteen (15) minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting, regardless of whether the persons were wearing a face covering; OR
- d. Had direct contact for any amount of time with the body fluids and/or secretions of the Person with COVID-19 (*e.g.*, was coughed or sneezed on, shared utensils with, or was provided care by or provided care for them without wearing a mask, gown, and gloves).

3. For purposes of this Order, a Person with COVID-19 who does not have access to a home or residence for the purpose of quarantine shall not be deemed in violation of this Order if, upon notification of the requirement to quarantine pursuant to this Order, such person promptly contacts the San Mateo County Emergency Operations Center (“EOC”) Shelter & Care Branch by dialing 211 to inform of their Close Contact status and request a quarantine location, cooperates fully with EOC staff, and is otherwise compliant with this Order.

4. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, the March 3, 2020 Proclamation by the Director of Emergency Services Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency in the County, the March 3, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency Regarding Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) issued by the Health Officer, the March 10, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo Ratifying and Extending the Declaration of a Local Health Emergency, the April 7, 2020, Board of Supervisors’ Resolution Further Extending the Proclamation of Local Health Emergency Until the County Takes Action to Terminate the Local Emergency, the October 29, 2020 Order of the Health Officer No. c19-1e extending and revising the Order restricting visitors to skilled nursing facilities to all residential type facilities, the March 24, 2020 Order of the Health Officer No. c19-4 directing all laboratories conducting COVID-19 diagnostic tests to report COVID-19 test information, the Vehicle-Based Gathering Order issued May 11, 2020 Health Officer Order No. c19-9;

the May 13, 2020 Order of the Health Officer No. c19-10 directing clinical laboratories to accept assignments for diagnostic tests from Optum Serve and Logistics Health Inc; and the June 17, 2020 Health Officer Order c19-11 limiting gatherings, allowing social bubbles, mandating social distancing and face coverings and requiring businesses to implement social distancing protocols and health and safety plans (“Social Distancing Order”).

5. Instructions. All individuals who meet the definition of a close contact of an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 must immediately take the following actions:
 - a. Quarantine themselves in their home or another residence, such as a hotel or motel, for fourteen (14) days. They may not leave their place of quarantine or enter any other public or private place, except to access necessary medical care or during an emergency that requires evacuation to protect the health and safety of the individual.
 - b. Carefully review and closely follow all requirements listed in the “Home Quarantine Instructions” posted at <https://www.smchealth.org/coronavirus-health-officer-updates> and attached to this Order as Appendix A, and comply with all directives of the Health Officer, including but not limited to reporting health data and identifying contacts who may have been exposed to COVID-19.
 - c. If a quarantined person becomes sick with fever, cough, or shortness of breath (even if their symptoms are very mild), they shall isolate themselves at home and away from other people and follow the “Home Isolation Instructions,” posted at <https://www.smchealth.org/coronavirus-health-officer-updates>, and attached as Appendix B. This is because the person is likely to have COVID-19 and if so, can spread it to vulnerable individuals. If a medical professional examines a quarantined person and determines that their symptoms are not due to COVID-19, the person may discontinue home isolation but shall continue to follow the home quarantine order and instructions.
 - d. If a quarantined person is diagnosed with COVID-19, they are to follow the County of San Mateo Health Officer Isolation Order No. c19-6c (Revised), issued on October 29, 2020, including “Home Isolation Instructions” posted at <https://www.smchealth.org/coronavirus-health-officer-updates>, and attached to this Order as Appendix B.
6. Exception. Notwithstanding the foregoing, health care workers and first responder agency workers who are close contacts of a person with COVID-19 are allowed to return for work in-person if the following below conditions are met. For clarity, if a worker can return to work under this limited exception, they must still otherwise comply with this Order when they are not at work.
 - a. The worker is either owner, operator, employee, contractor, volunteer or other personnel who regularly performs treatment, maintenance, support, or administrative tasks deemed essential to the healthcare mission of the entity; AND
 - b. The worker informs their employer that the worker is a Close Contact of a Person with COVID-19; AND
 - c. The worker is asymptomatic, and the worker’s employer determines, based on staffing needs, that the worker needs to report to work; AND



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- d. The close contact of the worker is not a household member, an intimate partner, or caregiver to a person COVID-19 positive or presumed positive; AND
- e. The entity, for which person works, contacts the County's Communicable Disease Control and notifies the County of its intended plan to allow the worker to provide in-person services; AND
- f. The entity in which the worker provides services is not an alternative health care site (e.g. physical therapy, chiropractic, dentistry, naturopathic or acupuncture site); AND
- g. The entity is affiliated with a hospital or health system that has a dedicated Infection Control Preventionist, Contact Tracing team, or onsite dedicated staff trained in infection control measures ("Infection Control Team") and COVID-19 reporting guidelines. Further, the Infection Control Team must first be notified and have approved the return to work; AND
- h. This exception is to be construed narrowly consistent with its purpose and any doubts as to its application should be resolved in favor of the person not returning to work in-person. The purpose of this exception is to avoid situations where patient care will be negatively impacted in a significant way by staffing shortages if the quarantining person does not return to work in-person.

7. The Health Officer may take additional action(s), which may include civil detention or requiring one to stay at a health facility or other location, to protect the public's health if an individual who is subject to this Order fails to comply with this Order.

8. This Order shall become effective at 11:59 pm on October 29, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.

9. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063; (2) posted on the County Health Services website (www.smchealth.org/post/health-officer-statements-and-orders); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy.

10. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Scott Morrow MD, MPH
Health Office of the County of San Mateo

Dated: October 29, 2020

Appendix A: "Home Quarantine Instructions"

Appendix B: "Home Isolation Instructions"