



Agenda

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COVID-19 ECONOMIC IMPACT AND RECOVERY

October 15, 2020
1:30 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting:

From PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://ccccounty-us.zoom.us/j/98744766252>

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Supervisor Candace Andersen, Chair
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, Vice Chair

Agenda Items:

Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference
of the Committee

1. Introductions
2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).
3. RECEIVE status report on the September 14th Updated Health Order on Social Distancing, the State's new Blueprint for a Safer Economy and the related new equity provision, and on school re-openings. *(Thomas Warne, M.D., Deputy County Health Officer)*
4. RECEIVE and APPROVE the Record of Action for the September 17, 2020 meeting.
5. The next meeting is currently scheduled for November 19, 2020.
6. Adjourn

The Ad Hoc Committee on Covid-19 Economic Impact and Recovery will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and

distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Covid-19 Economic Impact and Recovery less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 1025 Escobar St., 4th Floor, Martinez, during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible on line at www.contracosta.ca.gov.

Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact:

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Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Subcommittee Report

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COVID-19 ECONOMIC IMPACT AND RECOVERY

3.

Meeting Date: 10/15/2020
Subject: COVID 19 UPDATES
Submitted For: Candace Andersen, District II Supervisor
Department: Board of Supervisors District II
Referral No.:
Referral Name:
Presenter: Dr. Thomas Warne, Deputy County Health Officer

Contact:

Referral History:

Although the Board of Supervisors has authority over County issues, under State law, when an emergency of this nature is declared and there is a pandemic of this magnitude, the Health Officer of each county has the legal authority to impose whatever orders she or he deem necessary to protect the public.

On Tuesday, April 21, the Board of Supervisors formed this ad hoc committee to advise the Health Department on COVID19 impacts. The goal of the committee is to work toward having a sustainable COVID-19 mitigation and recovery plan. The committee will be working with the community and industry on issues of concern, advising the Board of Supervisors and the Health Officer on possible ways to interpret and apply Health Orders so they will continue to keep the community safe, but allow more businesses to re-open and provide common-sense applications to outdoor activities.

The Committee has so far conducted 16 public meetings on May 7, 14, 21 and 28; June 4, 11, 18, and 25; July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30; August 13; and September 3 and 17, 2020, covering recreation and lifestyle services, in-home and other personal services, small businesses, religious gatherings; a plan to move to fully to Stage 2 and, regrettably, the second surge that required postponement of many planned Phase 2 re-openings. A record of those meetings is posted on the County website at this [link](#). The committee plans to change its meeting schedule to monthly unless changing circumstances dictate otherwise, taking up new developments in the pandemic and discussing a roadmap to recovery.

The Committee and the Health Officer also discuss updates to the State and County Health Orders and projected timeline for reopening businesses, schools, and community activities and answer questions received via the Supervisors' offices and Committee staff. Community leaders and health officials continue to urge county residents to follow the local and state health guidance to protect their families and communities – it saves lives.

In Contra Costa and across the nation, historically marginalized communities are experiencing the most pronounced impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local community leaders continue to call upon the public to take COVID-19 seriously, and take steps to keep healthy and safe:

- Stay home from work or school if you feel sick
- Wash your hands often
- Wear face masks whenever you are near someone outside your immediate household
- Observe physical distancing outside the home and do not make unnecessary trips or visits
- Get tested and follow the health instructions if you test positive or were exposed to someone who tested positive

All Bay Area residents are also encouraged to get tested for COVID-19, and to do so immediately if they have symptoms. Check with your local health department for more information about testing and about efforts in your

community to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, please visit cchealth.org/coronavirus to read the latest health order and its appendices, and for local information about Contra Costa's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is a link to the updated FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions): [FAQs](#)

Referral Update:

Deputy County Health Officer Dr. Thomas Warne will provide a COVID-19 update at today's meeting.

Following Dr. Warne's remarks, we will allow for Public Comment and additional questions specific to the current Health Order, attached, other guidance documents, also attached, and Timeline.

Under the State's new Blueprint for a Safer Economy, every county is assigned to a tier by the State based on its test positivity and adjusted case rate (see Tier chart at the end of this section). The State reviews data weekly and tiers are updated on Tuesdays. To move forward, a county must meet the next tier's criteria for two consecutive weeks. Contra Costa County advanced from the Purple (most restrictive) Tier to the Red Tier on September 29, 2020. For Contra Costa County to move down to the next tier (moderate/orange), daily new cases (per 100k) must be between 1-3.9 and positive tests must be between 2-4.9%. If a county's case rate and positivity rate fall into different tiers, the county remains in the stricter tier. [Click to learn more about tier assignments and metric details.](#)

New Equity Provision

In an effort to reduce COVID-19 transmission across all of California's communities, beginning October 6, 2020, Contra Costa County will need to meet a health equity metric in order to further open its economy and ensure test positivity rates in disadvantaged neighborhoods don't fall significantly behind the overall county test positivity rate. Generally, to advance to the next less restrictive tier in the state's COVID-19 Tier Framework, a county, depending on its size, will need to meet an equity metric and/or show plans for targeted investments to eliminate neighborhood disparities in levels of COVID-19 transmission. Those investments can include spending on augmenting testing, disease investigation, contact tracing, isolation/quarantine support, and education and outreach efforts for workers.

Counties can't go backwards into more restrictive tiers solely because of the equity metric, but they will remain in a holding pattern and must submit a plan explaining how they'll increase testing and quarantine resources in hard-hit neighborhoods. Contra Costa County has opened free COVID testing sites in Richmond and added a weekend testing at a site in Bay Point, two cities with neighborhoods that rank low within the county's Healthy Places index.

Schools and Distance Learning

Thus far, none of the Contra Costa County school districts have moved to reopen. Some are planning on bringing students on campus for assessments and then later in small groups. Others are waiting until the County advances out of Red Tier and into the Orange Tier. 27 elementary school waivers have been approved.

Attached are samples of recent local school district news and planning efforts around distance learning and eventual reopening strategies.

County risk level	New cases	Positive tests
WIDESPREAD Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed	More than 7 daily new cases (per 100k)	More than 8% Positive tests
SUBSTANTIAL Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed	4 - 7 daily new cases (per 100k)	5 - 8% Positive tests
MODERATE Some indoor business operations are open with modifications	1 - 3.9 daily new cases (per 100k)	2 - 4.9% Positive tests
MINIMAL Most indoor business operations are open with modifications	Less than 1 daily new cases (per 100k)	Less than 2% Positive tests

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

RECEIVE status report on the September 14th Updated Health Order on Social Distancing, the State's new Blueprint for a Safer Economy and the related new equity provision, and on school re-openings.

Attachments

Press Release Alignment with CA COVID-19 Blueprint 9-14-2020

Health Order Mass Quarantine 10-8-2020

Health Order on Social Distancing 9-14-2020

Health Order Mass Isolation 8-5-2020

Health Order on Facial Coverings 7-5-2020

Health Order Vehicle-Based Gatherings 5-15-2020

State Tiers

CCHS Press Release Business Reopenings 9-29-2020

Contra-Costa-County-Openings-at-a-Glance 9-29-2020

Guidance for Suspected/Confirmed Covid-19 Cases 9-28-2020

Public Comment Jenny Tsang 9-17-2020

Public Comment Stella Wotherspoon 9-18-2020

Public Comment Joe Queirolo 9-23-2020



HOME • NEWSROOM • PRESS RELEASES • CONTRA COSTA UPDATES HEALTH ORDER TO ALIGN WITH CALIFORNIA'S COVID-19 BLUEPRINT

Press Release

Contra Costa Updates Health Order to Align with California's COVID-19 Blueprint



Tweet

Monday, September 14, 2020

Contra Costa County today aligned its COVID-19 social distancing health order with California's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/)

(<https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>), so the county no longer has different reopening rules for businesses and activities beyond what the state requires or allows.

The change, effective at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16, simplifies the plan for reducing the spread of COVID-19 in Contra Costa so that residents and local businesses can better understand and identify the steps we all need to take to keep ourselves, our families, workers and customers safer during the pandemic.

The update to Contra Costa's health order does allow some additional businesses to reopen, following the state health guidelines for their industries:

- Personal care services that involve close contact with the face may begin operating outdoors, except for tattooing, piercing and nonmedical electrolysis
- Racetracks and cardrooms may operate outdoors
- Music, television and film production may resume
- Professional sports without live audiences

CONTACT

CCHS Media Line,
925-608-5463

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- [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Latest Local Information](#)

may resume

These changes are consistent with Contra Costa's placement in the purple tier of the state's blueprint, indicating that COVID-19 is widespread in the county. When the data tracked by the state show sustained improvement for two weeks, the county will move into the red tier, allowing more businesses and activities to reopen.

Information about the state's blueprint, including health guidelines for businesses and activities, which business sectors are not currently safe to operate in Contra Costa, and how the guidelines will change as the county makes progress against COVID-19, are all available at covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy (<https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>).

Contra Costa's current health orders retain health guidelines for social bubbles and structured contact between people from different households, face coverings and physical distancing. The [FAQ](https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/frequently-asked-questions) (<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/frequently-asked-questions>) and [Safer Social Interactions](https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/safer-social-interactions) (<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/safer-social-interactions>) pages at [cchealth.org/coronavirus](https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/) (<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/>) have information about keeping safer during the pandemic.

Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) continues to monitor data that show how the virus is spreading through our community, including hospitalizations and how the pandemic is impacting the county's healthcare system. If there is a sudden surge in COVID-19 transmission in the future, the county may need to temporarily impose more restrictions to protect the public health.

One way Contra Costans can help keep our county's healthcare system running smoothly is to get a flu vaccine – talk to your health provider about getting one. CCHS is also planning community vaccination clinics beginning in October.

Anyone who lives or works in Contra Costa can help make the county safer from COVID-19 and reopen more quickly is to get a fast, free COVID-19 test at a community testing site (<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/get-tested>).

The state has reduced the requirements for moving into less restrictive tiers for counties that test many people every day, and other Bay Area counties have already qualified for this benefit.

Make a COVID-19 testing appointment today by calling 1-844-421-0804 or booking online at [cchealth.org/coronavirus](https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/coronavirus) (<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/>) – hit the "Get Tested" button. This site is also an official source for local information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

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ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

UPDATED MASS QUARANTINE ORDER

NO. HO-COVID19-32

DATE OF ORDER: OCTOBER 8, 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.)

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 Contra Costa ("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 vaccine available to protect against COVID-19 and no standard treatment.

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 Contra Costa to require the quarantine of persons exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Quarantine separates individuals who were exposed to COVID-19 from others, until it is determined that they are not at risk for spreading the disease.



This Order supersedes the September 14, 2020, Order of the Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa, No. HO-COVID19-29, directing close contacts of persons diagnosed with COVID-19 to quarantine themselves, with an exception for certain essential workers in critical infrastructure sectors. This Order provides clarification regarding who may be considered a close contact. This Order also revises the exception to reference the critical infrastructure sectors identified by the State Public Health Officer and eliminate the requirement that essential workers be household members, intimate partners or caregivers of a person with COVID-19 in order to qualify for the exemption.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SECTIONS 101040 AND 120175 OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:

1. Health Officer Order No. HO-COVID19-29 is hereby superseded.
2. All persons who have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 (“Case), as described below in Section 3, must quarantine themselves. These persons are required to follow all instructions in this Order and the Public Health guidance documents referenced in this Order.
3. For the purposes of this Order, a person is considered to have had close contact with a Case if, during the Case’s infectious period, the person was within six feet of the Case for 15 minutes or longer in any setting. Examples may include, but are not limited to, persons who:
 - a. Live in, have visited, or have stayed overnight at the Case’s residence; or
 - b. Are intimate sexual partners of the Case; or
 - c. Provide or provided care to the Case without wearing a mask, a face shield or goggles, gown, and gloves; or
 - d. Worked with the Case; or
 - e. Attended a social gathering with the Case; or
 - f. Have been identified as close contacts by the Contra Costa County Health Services Department; or
 - g. Have been released from a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Facility where a Case was reported among staff or detainees within 30 days before the person’s release.

For purposes of this Order, a Case is infectious from 48 hours before his or her symptoms began (or, in the absence of symptoms, from 48 hours before the date of administration of a positive test for the presence of COVID-19) and until he or she is released from isolation.



4. Instructions. All persons who have had close contact with a Case must immediately take the following actions:

a. Stay in their home or another residence through 14 days from the last date that they were in contact with the person infected or likely to be infected with COVID-19. Persons are required to quarantine themselves for the entirety of the 14-day incubation period because they are at high risk for developing and spreading COVID-19.

b. Quarantined persons may not leave their place of quarantine or enter any other public or private place except to receive necessary medical care or during an emergency that requires evacuation to protect the health and safety of the person.

c. Carefully review and closely follow all requirements listed in the “Home Quarantine Instructions For Close Contacts,” posted at <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/for-covid-19-patients>.

d. If a quarantined person becomes sick with fever, cough, or shortness of breath (even if their symptoms are very mild), he or she shall isolate themselves at home and away from other people and follow the “Self-Isolation Instructions for Confirmed Cases Instructions,” posted at <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/for-covid-19-patients>. 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 his or her symptoms are not due to COVID-19, the person may discontinue home isolation but shall continue to follow the home quarantine order and instructions.

5. Exception. Notwithstanding the foregoing, close contacts of a Case who are employed in any of the critical infrastructure sectors designated by the State of California Public Health Officer (see <https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf>) and have been determined by their respective employers to be part of the essential workforce are not subject to this Order under the following circumstances:

a. The worker informs his or her employer about the worker’s close contact to a lab-confirmed Case;

b. The worker is asymptomatic, and the worker’s employer determines, based on staffing needs, that the worker needs to report to work; AND

c. The worker returns to work.

6. 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 violates or fails to comply with this Order.

7. This Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on October 9, 2020, and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.



8. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the Office of the Director of Contra Costa Health Services, 1220 Morello Avenue, Suite 200, Martinez, CA 94553; (2) posted on the Contra Costa Health Services website (<https://www.cchealth.org>); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy.

9. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the reminder 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.

10. Questions or comments regarding this Order may be directed to Contra Costa Health Services at (844) 729-8410.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Chris Farnitano, M.D.
Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa

Dated: October 8, 2020





**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER
OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA DIRECTING
ALL INDIVIDUALS IN THE COUNTY TO CONTINUE TO COMPLY WITH SOCIAL
DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS AND AVOID MOST GATHERINGS, AUTHORIZING
BUSINESSES TO OPERATE IN CONFORMANCE WITH STATE REQUIREMENTS,
AND DIRECTING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO COMPLY WITH SPECIFIED
RESTRICTIONS NECESSARY TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF NOVEL CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE 2019**

Order No. HO-COVID19-28

DATE OF ORDER: SEPTEMBER 14, 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 Safety Code § 120295.)

Summary of the Order

In light of evidence of stabilization and improvement in rates of cases of and hospitalizations for Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), this Order of the County of Contra Costa Health Officer, as of the effective date set forth in Section 14, eliminates restrictions on business activities in the County set forth in the Health Officer’s September 4, 2020, Order (No. HO-COVID19-27) (the “Prior Order”) that were stricter than requirements imposed by the State of California (“State”). This Order is intended to align County restrictions on business activities with State restrictions on business activities. A business activity is allowed under this Order if the State allows the activity in this County under the State’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy (“State Blueprint”). Business activities in sectors that are closed in the tier of the State Blueprint that applies to the County are not allowed in the County under this Order. This Order also requires all business activities in the County to conform to applicable guidance issued by the State.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040 AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:



1. **Past Orders.** This Order supersedes the Prior Order. Health Officer Order No. HO-COVID19-01 (the “Mass Gathering Order”) remains rescinded.
2. **Basis for Order.** This Order is issued based on evidence of ongoing community transmission of COVID-19 within the County; scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically; evidence that 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; and further evidence that others, including younger and otherwise healthy people, are also at risk for serious outcomes. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a public health emergency throughout the County. Making the problem worse, some individuals who contract the virus causing COVID-19 have no symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means they may not be aware they carry the virus and are transmitting it to others. Because even people without symptoms can transmit the infection, and because evidence shows the infection is easily spread, gatherings and other direct or indirect interpersonal interactions can result in preventable transmission of the virus. Gatherings bring people together, often for prolonged periods of time, which can create a high risk for COVID-19 spread. Due to the association of gatherings with outbreaks, both within the County and elsewhere in the State, it is necessary to continue to limit gatherings to limit the spread of COVID-19. However, due to evidence of stabilization and even modest improvement in case rates and hospitalization rates for COVID-19 in the County in the previous several weeks, this Order replaces local restrictions on business activities that were stricter than State requirements with the requirement that business activities conform to the State Blueprint and applicable guidance issued by the State.
3. **Intent.** The primary intent of this Order is to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the County and mitigate the impact on delivery of critical healthcare services. All provisions of this Order must be interpreted to effectuate this intent.
4. **Cases Within the County.** Efforts taken to date regarding this public health emergency have slowed the virus’ trajectory, but the emergency and the attendant risk to public health remain significant. As of September 13, 2020, a total of 15,351 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County have been reported (up from 34 on March 15, 2020, just before the first shelter-in-place order). The cumulative number of confirmed cases continues to increase. Evidence suggests that the restrictions on mobility and social distancing requirements imposed by the Prior Order (and the orders that preceded it) are slowing the rate of increase in community transmission and confirmed cases by limiting interactions among people, consistent with scientific evidence of the efficacy of similar measures in other parts of the country and world.
5. **COVID-19 Indicators.** The Health Officer monitors several key indicators (“COVID-19 Indicators”), which are among the many factors informing decisions whether to modify restrictions imposed to slow the spread of COVID-19. Progress or stability on all of these COVID-19 Indicators – specifically related to case numbers, hospital utilization and capacity, supply of personal protective equipment, and contact tracing – makes it appropriate,



at this time, to align restrictions on business activities in the County with the State's requirements. Evaluation of the COVID-19 Indicators will be critical to determinations regarding whether stricter restrictions need to be imposed in the future. The Health Officer will continually review whether modifications to the Order are warranted based on (1) progress on the COVID-19 Indicators; (2) developments in epidemiological and diagnostic methods for tracing, diagnosing, treating, or testing for COVID-19; and (3) scientific understanding of the transmission dynamics and clinical impact of COVID-19. The COVID-19 Indicators include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. The trend of the number of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations per day.
- b. The capacity of hospitals and the health system in the County and region, including acute care beds and Intensive Care Unit beds, to provide care for COVID-19 patients and other patients, including during a surge in COVID-19 cases.
- c. The supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) available for hospital staff and other healthcare providers and personnel who need PPE to safely respond to and treat COVID-19 patients.
- d. The ability and capacity to quickly and accurately test persons to determine whether they are COVID-19 positive, especially those in vulnerable populations or high-risk settings or occupations.
- e. The ability to conduct case investigation and contact tracing for the volume of cases and associated contacts that will continue to occur, isolating confirmed cases and quarantining persons who have had contact with confirmed cases.

6. **Incorporation of Emergency Proclamations.** 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 and the March 10, 2020, Proclamation by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors declaring the existence of a local emergency.

7. **State Orders.** This Order is also issued in light of the following orders (collectively "State Orders"):

- a. The March 19, 2020, Order of the State Public Health Officer (the "State Shelter Order"), which set baseline statewide restrictions on non-residential business activities, effective until further notice;
- b. The March 19, 2020, executive order issued by the Governor (N-33-20), directing California residents to heed then-current State public health directives;
- c. The May 4, 2020, executive order issued by the Governor (N-66-20), directing California residents to continue to obey State public health directives; and



- d. The May 7, 2020, Order of the State Public Health Officer, permitting businesses to reopen as designated by sector, but expressly acknowledging the authority of local health officers to establish and implement public health measures within their respective jurisdictions that are more restrictive than those implemented by the State Public Health Officer; and
- e. The August 28, 2020, Order of the Acting State Public Health Officer, outlining the State Blueprint, authorizing local health jurisdictions to reopen specified sectors of the economy, and directing the closure of sectors as needed, in accordance with the county's tier.

In certain respects, this Order adopts more stringent restrictions addressing the particular facts and circumstances in this County, which are necessary to control the public health emergency as it is evolving within the County. This Order imposes specific requirements on individuals with regard to social distancing and expressly prohibits gatherings of any size with limited exceptions. Without these restrictions to limit interactions between persons, scientific evidence indicates that the public health crisis in the County will worsen to the point at which it may overtake available health care resources within the County and increase the death rate. Where this Order is more restrictive than a State public health order or state or federal guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic, this Order controls.

8. Restrictions on Activities of Individuals.

- a. Prohibition on Gatherings; Exceptions. Individuals may not participate in public or private gatherings of any size, except as otherwise set forth in this Order or other order of the Health Officer. For purposes of this Order, a gathering is defined as a meeting or other event that brings together persons from multiple households or living units at the same time for a shared or group experience in a single room, space, or place such as, by way of example and without limitation, an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, or other indoor or outdoor space.

(1) This Order does not prohibit participation in any of the following:

- (a) Religious services or cultural ceremonies that conform to limitations set forth by the State; and
- (b) Protests protected by the First Amendment that conform to limitations set forth by the State.

It is strongly recommended that individuals wear face coverings while participating in religious services, cultural ceremonies or protests, even if they can maintain a 6 foot distance from persons not in their household. Face coverings are also strongly recommended while engaged in activities such as singing and chanting. Because in-person events can involve extended periods of close contact, increasing the risk of transmission of COVID-19, it is recommended that event organizers consider



maintaining contact information of attendees and that this information be kept for at least 14 days after the event. The purpose of this recommendation is to assist Contra Costa Health Services with effective contact tracing in case of an outbreak that may have affected attendees.

(2) Public and private gatherings of persons in a “Social Bubble,” as defined below, may take place if the gathering takes place outside and participants comply with all other requirements of this Order. The following definitions apply to this subsection:

(a) “Social Bubble” means a Stable Group of 12 that forms a Household Support Unit for the purpose of engaging in activities that are not prohibited under this Order.

(b) “Stable Group of 12” means a group of not more than 12 individuals over a three-week time period that is a Household Support Unit.

(c) “Household Support Unit” means a Stable Group of 12 that is formed for the purpose of engaging in the sort of support and activities that are typical of members of the same household (e.g., childcare, family recreation, etc.), regardless of whether they physically occupy the same dwelling. Each person may be part of only one Household Support Unit, and every resident of a single dwelling unit must be part of the same Household Support Unit, except that a child who resides in more than one dwelling unit as part of a court-ordered shared custody arrangement may be part of the Household Support Unit of each of the child’s custodians.

(3) Gatherings of stable groups of no more than 14 children or youth and no more than two supervising adults may take place in accordance with guidance issued by the State of California on August 25, 2020 (see <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/small-groups-child-youth.aspx>), as may be amended from time to time.

(4) Highly-regulated vehicle-based gatherings, as defined in the Health Officer’s May 15, 2020, Order ([No. HO-COVID19-13](#)) (the “Vehicle Gatherings Order”), are permitted if they adhere to the requirements set forth in Subsection 8.b. of the Vehicle Gatherings Order.

(5) This Order does not prohibit normal interactions among individuals in the course of work or other activities not prohibited by this Order or the State Orders, to the extent the interactions are consistent with any applicable guidance or other directives issued by the State.

b. Use of Dog Parks. An individual must not enter a dog park if it is not possible at that time, within the park, to easily maintain at least 6 feet of separation from all other persons.



- c. Use of Picnic and Barbecue Areas. People may use picnic areas and barbecue areas subject to the following limitations:
- (1) Picnic areas and barbecue areas may be used only by households, living units or Social Bubbles.
 - (2) Each picnic table may be occupied by only one household, living unit or Social Bubble at a time.
 - (3) Each barbecue pit or grill may be used by only one household, living unit or Social Bubble at a time.
 - (4) Except as set forth below for Social Bubbles, each member of a household or living unit must maintain at least 6 feet of separation from all members of other households or living units in the area. For clarity, members of the same household or living unit do not need to be 6 feet apart from each other. Children age 12 years or younger within the same Social Bubble do not need to be 6 feet apart from each other, but members of Social Bubbles who are over 12 years of age must maintain at least 6 feet of separation from all members of other households or living units.
- d. Social Distancing.
- (1) Requirement. Except as otherwise set forth in this Order, all individuals shall strictly comply with the social distancing requirements described below (“Social Distancing Requirements”).
 - (2) Definition. “Social Distancing Requirements” means:
 - (a) Maintaining at least 6-foot social distancing from individuals who are not part of the same household or living unit;
 - (b) Frequently washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer that is recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as effective in combatting COVID-19;
 - (c) Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or fabric or, if not possible, into the sleeve or elbow (but not into hands); and
 - (d) Avoiding all social interaction outside the household when sick with a fever, cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms.



(3) Exceptions.

- (a) An individual is not required to strictly comply with Social Distancing Requirements in any of the following circumstances, provided that the individual complies with Social Distancing Requirements to the greatest extent feasible:
 - 1. An individual who is providing care to others, including childcare, adult or senior care, care to individuals with special needs, and patient care.
 - 2. An individual who is working at a business that may operate under the State Blueprint, unless the specific industry guidance for that business requires social distancing of workers.
- (b) Children age 12 or younger who are members of the same Social Bubble are not required to strictly comply with Social Distancing Requirements while participating in gatherings of the Social Bubble authorized under subsection 8.a.(2) of this Order.
- e. State Orders. Nothing in this Order shall be interpreted to authorize individuals to engage in activities that are not permitted under the State Orders.

9. Restrictions on Business Activities.

- a. Definition. A “business” includes any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entity, whether a corporate entity, organization, partnership or sole proprietorship, and regardless of the nature of the service, the function it performs, or its corporate or entity structure.
- b. Conformance with State Requirements.

(1) A business activity is allowed in this County if:

- (a) The business activity is in a sector that is open in the tier of the State Blueprint that applies to the County; and
- (b) The business activity conforms to applicable guidance issued by the State.

The County’s tier status is determined at <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>. Information about the four tiers included in the State Blueprint is at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/C/OVID-19/Dimmer-Framework-August_2020.pdf. State guidance documents are at <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>.

(2) A business activity is not allowed in this County if the business activity is in a sector that is closed in the tier of the State Blueprint that applies to the County. A business



engaged in an activity that is not allowed in the County under the State Blueprint must discontinue the activity in the County until it is allowed.

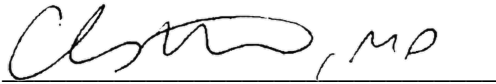
- 10. Categorical Exemptions.** All emergency services personnel, including but not limited to first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, and law enforcement personnel, and all court personnel, are categorically exempt from this Order to the extent they are performing position-related tasks.
- 11. Essential Governmental Functions.** Nothing in this Order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing “Essential Governmental Functions,” as determined by the governmental entity performing those functions. Each governmental entity in the County shall identify and designate appropriate personnel, volunteers, or contractors to continue providing and carrying out any Essential Governmental Functions, including the hiring or retention of new personnel or contractors to perform such functions. Each governmental entity in the County and its contractors must employ all necessary emergency protective measures to prevent, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and all Essential Governmental Functions shall be carried out in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements and the face covering requirements set forth in Health Officer Order [No. HO-COVID19-22](#) to the greatest extent feasible.
- 12. Homeless Persons.** Government agencies and other entities operating shelters and other facilities that house or provide meals or other necessities of life for individuals experiencing homelessness must take appropriate steps to help ensure compliance with Social Distancing Requirements, including adequate provision of hand sanitizer. Individuals experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered and living in encampments should, to the maximum extent feasible, abide by 12 foot by 12 foot distancing for the placement of tents, and government agencies should provide restroom and hand washing facilities for individuals in such encampments as set forth in the CDC’s Interim Guidance Responding to Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Among People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/unsheltered-homelessness.html>).
- 13. Enforcement.** Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order. The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.
- 14. Effective Date and Time.** This Order shall become effective at 8:00 a.m. on September 16, 2020, and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.
- 15. Copies; Contact Information.** Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the Office of the Director of Contra Costa Health Services, 1220 Morello Avenue, Suite 200, Martinez, CA 94553; (2) posted on the Contra Costa Health Services website



(<https://www.cchealth.org>); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order. Questions or comments regarding this Order may be directed to Contra Costa Health Services at (844) 729-8410.

16. Severability. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, 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:



Chris Farnitano, M.D.
Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa

Dated: September 14, 2020





ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

No. HO-COVID19-25

UPDATED MASS ISOLATION ORDER

DATE OF ORDER: August 5, 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.)

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 Contra Costa ("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 vaccine available to protect against COVID-19 and no specific treatment.

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 Contra Costa to isolate persons with COVID-19.



This Order supersedes the May 13, 2020, Order of the Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa, No. HO-COVID19-04, directing persons diagnosed with COVID-19 to isolate themselves and inform their close contacts to quarantine themselves. This Order increases the period of isolation and updates the description of close contacts to include all persons who have been within six feet of the person diagnosed with COVID-19 during the infectious period as defined.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SECTIONS 101040 AND 120175 OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:

1. All individuals who have COVID-19, as described in Section 2 of this Order, must isolate themselves and follow all instructions in this Order and the Public Health guidance documents referenced in this Order. Self-isolation is required because a person with COVID-19 can easily spread the virus to others. Isolation separates these ill individuals from others to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
2. For purposes of this Order, an individual is considered to have COVID-19 if the individual was diagnosed with COVID-19 on the basis of a positive lab test for the presence of the coronavirus (known as SARS-CoV-2) that causes COVID-19 and is infectious, as described in Section 3.c. below.
3. Instructions. All individuals who are diagnosed with COVID-19 must immediately take the following actions:
 - a. Isolate themselves in their home or another residence. They may not leave their place of isolation or enter any other public or private place, except to receive necessary medical care or during an emergency that requires evacuation to protect the health and safety of the person.
 - b. Carefully review and closely follow all requirements listed in the “Self-Isolation Instructions for Confirmed Cases” posted at <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/for-covid-19-patients> and attached to this order.
 - c. Tell their close contacts that they need to quarantine themselves. Close contacts who should be notified to self-quarantine are people who were near them during their infectious period, as further described below. The infectious period commences 48 hours before symptoms began (or, in the absence of symptoms, 48 hours before the date of administration of a positive test) and ends when the isolation period is over (see Section 4 below). Close contacts of an individual who has COVID-19 are persons who, during the individual’s infectious period, were within six feet of the individual for 15 minutes or longer. These may include persons who:
 - Live in, have visited, or have stayed overnight at the individual’s residence; or
 - Are intimate sexual partners of the individual; or



- Worked within six feet of the individual; or
- Provide or provided care to the individual without wearing a mask, a face shield or goggles, gown, and gloves; or
- Have been identified as close contacts by the Contra Costa County Health Services Department.

d. Refer their close contacts to the “Home Quarantine Instructions For Close Contacts” posted at <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/for-covid-19-patients> and attached to this order, which describe steps that household contacts, intimate partners, and caregivers must take to prevent spread of COVID-19. Close contacts have likely been exposed to COVID-19 and if infected, can easily spread COVID-19 to others, even if they have only mild symptoms.

4. The period of isolation for an individual will be one of the following:

- a. Individuals without symptoms must isolate for 10 days from the date of a positive test.
- b. Individuals with symptoms must isolate until:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of both fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement of cough, shortness of breath, and other symptoms if present AND
 - At least 10 days have passed since their symptoms started.
- c. Individuals with symptoms and was hospitalized in the intensive care unit must isolate until:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of both fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement of cough, shortness of breath, and other symptoms if present AND
 - At least 20 days have passed since their symptoms started.

5. 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 violates or fails to comply with this Order.

6. This Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on August 5, 2020, and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.



7. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the Office of the Director of Contra Costa Health Services, 1220 Morello Avenue, Suite 200, Martinez, CA 94553; (2) posted on the Contra Costa Health Services website (<https://www.cchealth.org>); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy.

8. 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.

9. Questions or comments regarding this Order may be directed to Contra Costa Health Services at (844) 729-8410.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Chris Farnitano, M.D.
Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa

Dated: August 5, 2020

Attachments:

Appendix A: "Home Quarantine Instructions"

Appendix B: "Home Isolation Instructions"





**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA
SUPERSEDING HEALTH OFFICER ORDER NO. HO-COVID19-08, GENERALLY
REQUIRING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND WORKERS TO WEAR FACE
COVERINGS**

ORDER NO. HO-COVID19-22

DATE OF ORDER: JULY 5, 2020

Summary and Basis of the Order

This Order requires that all individuals in Contra Costa County (“County”) wear face coverings in accordance with guidance issued by the State of California. This Order is issued in light of the existence in the County, as of July 4, 2020, of 3,564 confirmed cases of infection by the virus that causes Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), including a significant and increasing number of cases of community transmission. This Order is necessary to slow the rate of spread. This Order supersedes the Order of the Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa issued on April 17, 2020, which imposed a requirement that members of the public and workers wear face coverings in specified situations.

A key transmission method for the virus that causes COVID-19 is respiratory droplets that people expel when they breathe or sneeze. People can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 and not have any symptoms, meaning they are asymptomatic, but can still be contagious. People can also be infected and contagious 48 hours before developing symptoms, the time when they are pre-symptomatic. Many people who have been infected with the COVID-19 virus have mild symptoms and do not recognize they are infected and contagious, and they can unintentionally infect others. Therefore, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Contra Costa County Health Services Department believe that wearing a face covering, when combined with physical distancing of at least 6 feet and frequent hand washing, may reduce the risk of transmitting the COVID-19 virus when engaged in activities in public when others are nearby.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040 and 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:



1. **Past Order.** This Order supersedes Health Officer Order No. HO-COVID19-08, which is referred to as the “Face Covering Order” in other orders of the Health Officer. Requirements in other Health Officer orders to comply with the Face Covering Order will be interpreted as requirements to comply with this Order.

2. **Compliance with State Guidance.** All individuals in the County shall comply with the applicable face covering requirements set forth in the June 18, 2020, CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings (“State Face Covering Guidance”), a copy of which is attached hereto, as may be amended from time to time.

3. **Face Coverings.** The term “face covering” in the State Face Covering Guidance (“Face Covering”) means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers the nose and mouth, but does not hide or obscure the wearer’s eyes or forehead. The Face Covering should be comfortable, so that the wearer can breathe comfortably through the nose and does not have to adjust it frequently, so as to avoid touching the face. A video showing how to make a Face Covering and additional information about how to wear and clean Face Coverings may be found at the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>. Any mask that incorporates a one-way valve (typically a raised plastic cylinder about the size of a quarter on the front or side of the mask) that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling is not a Face Covering and may not be used to comply with this Order. Even when not required by this Order, people are strongly encouraged to wear Face Coverings when in public.

4. **Local Requirements.** Subject to the exemptions set forth in the State Face Covering Guidance, including but not limited to exemptions in industry guidance documents issued by the State of California, individuals and businesses in the County must comply with the following local requirements, as applicable:

a. Individuals shall wear Face Coverings when less than 6 feet away from any person who is not a member of the individual’s household or living unit.

b. Individuals must wear Face Coverings when inside or on the grounds of, or waiting in line to enter, any business.

c. Businesses must take all reasonable steps to prohibit an individual who is not wearing a Face Covering from entering. If those efforts are not successful, the business must not serve that individual, and must seek to remove the individual from the premises.

5. **Incorporation of Emergency Proclamations.** 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 and the March 10, 2020, Proclamation by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors declaring the existence of a local emergency.



6. Enforcement. Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order. The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

7. Effective Date and Time. This Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on July 6, 2020, and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.

8. Copies; Contact Information. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the Office of the Director of Contra Costa Health Services, 1220 Morello Avenue, Suite 200, Martinez, CA 94553; (2) posted on the Contra Costa Health Services website (<https://www.cchealth.org>); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order. Questions or comments regarding this Order may be directed to Contra Costa Health Services at (844) 729-8410.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



July 5, 2020

Chris Farnitano, M.D.
Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa

Attachment:

June 18, 2020, California Department of Public Health Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings





SONIA Y. ANGELL, MD, MPH
State Public Health Officer & Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

Released June 18, 2020

- Revised on June 29, 2020 to clarify that children under two years old are exempt from wearing face coverings due to risk of suffocation

GUIDANCE FOR THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS

Because of our collective actions, California has limited the spread of COVID-19 and associated hospitalizations and deaths in our state. Still, the risk for COVID-19 remains and the increasing number of Californians who are leaving their homes for work and other needs, increases the risk for COVID-19 exposure and infection.

Over the last four months, we have learned a lot about COVID-19 transmission, most notably that people who are infected but are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic play an important part in community spread. The use of face coverings by everyone can limit the release of infected droplets when talking, coughing, and/or sneezing, as well as reinforce physical distancing.

This document updates existing [CDPH guidance](#) for the use of cloth face coverings by the general public when outside the home. It mandates that face coverings be worn state-wide in the circumstances and with the exceptions outlined below. It does not substitute for existing guidance about social distancing and handwashing.

Guidance

People in California must wear face coverings when they are in the high-risk situations listed below:

- Inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor public space;¹
- Obtaining services from the healthcare sector in settings including, but not limited to, a hospital, pharmacy, medical clinic, laboratory, physician or dental office, veterinary clinic, or blood bank;²
- Waiting for or riding on public transportation or paratransit or while in a taxi, private car service, or ride-sharing vehicle;
- Engaged in work, whether at the workplace or performing work off-site, when:
 - Interacting in-person with any member of the public;
 - Working in any space visited by members of the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time;

¹ Unless exempted by state guidelines for specific public settings

² Unless directed otherwise by an employee or healthcare provider



- Working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
- Working in or walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities;
- In any room or enclosed area where other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present when unable to physically distance.
- Driving or operating any public transportation or paratransit vehicle, taxi, or private car service or ride-sharing vehicle when passengers are present. When no passengers are present, face coverings are strongly recommended.
- While outdoors in public spaces when maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet from persons who are not members of the same household or residence is not feasible.

The following individuals are exempt from wearing a face covering:

- Persons younger than two years old. These very young children must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
- Persons who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking, provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.
- Persons who are engaged in outdoor work or recreation such as swimming, walking, hiking, bicycling, or running, when alone or with household members, and when they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others.

- Persons who are incarcerated. Prisons and jails, as part of their mitigation plans, will have specific guidance on the wearing of face coverings or masks for both inmates and staff.

Note: Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.

Background

What is a cloth face covering?

A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

How well do cloth face coverings work to prevent spread of COVID-19?

There is scientific evidence to suggest that use of cloth face coverings by the public during a pandemic could help reduce disease transmission. Their primary role is to reduce the release of infectious particles into the air when someone speaks, coughs, or sneezes, including someone who has COVID-19 but feels well. Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing, washing hands, and staying home when ill, but they may be helpful when combined with these primary interventions.

When should I wear a cloth face covering?

You should wear face coverings when in public places, particularly when those locations are indoors or in other areas where physical distancing is not possible

How should I care for a cloth face covering?

It's a good idea to wash your cloth face covering frequently, ideally after each use, or at least daily. Have a bag or bin to keep cloth face coverings in until they can be laundered with detergent and hot water and dried on a hot cycle. If you must re-wear your cloth face covering before washing, wash your hands immediately after putting it back on and avoid touching your face. Discard cloth face coverings that:

- No longer cover the nose and mouth
- Have stretched out or damaged ties or straps
- Cannot stay on the face
- Have holes or tears in the fabric

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**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA
ALLOWING FOR CERTAIN HIGHLY REGULATED
VEHICLE-BASED GATHERINGS**

Order No. HO-COVID19-13

DATE OF ORDER: MAY 15, 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 Safety Code § 120295.)

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040 AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA ("HEALTH OFFICER") ORDERS:

1. **Modification of Shelter in Place.** This Order does not supersede the April 29, 2020, Order of the Health Officer No. HO-COVID19-09 directing all individuals to shelter in place (the "Shelter in Place Order"). Instead, in light of the progress achieved in slowing the spread of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") in the County of Contra Costa (the "County") and recognizing that as the Shelter in Place enters its third month outlets for certain community activity become more important, this Order slightly modifies provisions of the Shelter in Place Order to allow for certain Highly Regulated Vehicle-Based Gatherings. This measured allowance of those activities is designed to keep the overall volume of person-to-person contact very low to prevent a surge in COVID-19 cases in the County and neighboring counties. The activities allowed by this Order will be assessed on an ongoing basis and may need to be modified if the risk associated with COVID-19 increases in the future.
2. **Intent and Purpose.** The primary intent of this Order is to ensure that County residents continue to shelter in their places of residence to slow the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the impact on delivery of critical healthcare services, while allowing the limited addition of certain lower risk Highly Regulated Vehicle-Based Gatherings, as defined below in Section 8. All provisions of this Order must be interpreted to effectuate this intent. Such Highly Regulated Vehicle-Based Gatherings shall only be permitted under conditions designed to continue the progress achieved in slowing the spread of COVID-19 while the Health Officer continues to assess the transmissibility and clinical severity of COVID-19. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Order constitutes an



imminent threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

3. **Reasoning.** This Order is issued based on evidence of continued significant community transmission of COVID-19 within the County; continued uncertainty regarding the degree of undetected asymptomatic transmission; scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically; evidence that 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; and further evidence that others, including younger and otherwise healthy people, are also at risk for serious outcomes. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in the general public, which is a pandemic according to the World Health Organization, there is a public health emergency throughout the County. Making the problem worse, some individuals who contract the virus causing COVID-19 have no symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means they may not be aware they carry the virus and are transmitting it to others. Further, evidence shows that the virus can survive for hours to days on surfaces and be indirectly transmitted between individuals. Because even people without symptoms can transmit the infection, and because evidence shows the infection is easily spread, uncontrolled gatherings and other direct or indirect interpersonal interactions can result in preventable transmission of the virus. The scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it remains essential to continue to slow virus transmission to help (a) protect the most vulnerable; (b) prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed; (c) prevent long-term chronic health conditions, such as cardiovascular, kidney, and respiratory damage and loss of limbs from blood clotting; and (d) prevent deaths.
4. **Cases Within the County.** The collective efforts taken to date regarding this public health emergency have slowed the virus' trajectory, but the emergency and the attendant risk to public health remain significant. As of May 13, 2020, there are 1080 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County and 33 deaths. The cumulative number of confirmed cases continues to increase, though the rate of increase has slowed in the days leading up to this Order. Evidence suggests that the restrictions on mobility and social distancing requirements imposed by the Shelter in Place Order (and the prior shelter-in-place orders) are slowing the rate of increase in community transmission and confirmed cases by limiting interactions among people, consistent with scientific evidence of the efficacy of similar measures in other parts of the country and world.
5. **Guidance of Health Officer, CDC, CDPH.** This Order comes after the release of substantial guidance from the Health Officer, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health, and other public health officials throughout the United States and around the world, including the widespread adoption of orders imposing similar social distancing requirements and mobility restrictions to combat the spread and harms of COVID-19. The Health Officer will continue to assess the quickly evolving situation and may modify or extend this Order, or issue additional Orders, related to COVID-19, as changing circumstances dictate.



6. **Incorporation of County Orders.** 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 10, 2020, Proclamation by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors declaring the existence of a local emergency; the March 24, 2020, Order of the Health Officer No. HO-COVID19-02 directing all laboratories conducting COVID-19 diagnostic tests to report COVID-19 test information, the April 13, 2020, Order of the Health Officer No. HO-COVID19-06, imposing restrictions on persons entering specified licensed and other facilities; the April 29, 2020, Shelter in Place Order No. HO-COVID19-09, the April 6, 2020, Orders of the Health Officer Nos. HO-COVID19-04 AND HO-COVID19-05, requiring isolation for COVID-19 positive individuals and quarantine of Close Contacts of COVID-19 positive individuals, and the April 17, 2020, Order of the Health Officer No. COVID19-08, requiring members of the public and workers to wear face coverings (the “Face Covering Order”).

State Order. This Order is also issued in light of the March 19, 2020, Order of the State Public Health Officer (the “State Shelter Order”), which set baseline statewide restrictions on non-residential business activities, effective until further notice, as well as the Governor’s March 19, 2020, Executive Order N-33-20 directing California residents to follow the State Shelter Order and the May 4, 2020, Executive Order N-60-20 directing the State Public Health Officer to establish criteria to determine whether and how, in light of local conditions, local health officers may implement public health measures less restrictive than the statewide public health directives. It is also issued in light of the position taken by the State of California in *Gish v. Newsom*, 20 cv 00755 (C.D.Cal), in which the Governor posited that some drive-in type gatherings could occur under his Order as a “technology” based alternative.

7. **Applicability.** All individuals currently living, working, or visiting within the County are ordered to continue to follow the Shelter in Place Order. In addition to the listed exemptions as defined in the Shelter in Place Order, individuals within the County may also engage in certain Highly Regulated Vehicle-Based Gatherings as defined in Section 8 below.
8. **Requirements.**
- a. For the purposes of this Order, a Highly Regulated Vehicle-Based Gathering is a gathering where, during the entirety of the gathering, every participant, excluding the Host, Personnel, and security, except as expressly provided herein, remains in a fully enclosed motorized vehicle parked at least six feet apart from other vehicles and where all occupants of each enclosed vehicle are members of a single household. For clarity, an enclosed vehicle does not include a motorcycle, a convertible with the top open, a vehicle with no doors, or bicycle.



- b. Vehicle-Based Gatherings must adhere to the following requirements:
- i. **Host, Personnel, Gathering Plan.** The gathering must have a designated organizational host who is responsible for ensuring compliance with this Order and the Shelter in Place Order during the gathering (“Host”). Only those personnel of the organization necessary to facilitate the gathering and to ensure compliance with this Order can be present (“Personnel”). In addition, the Host must do all of the following:
 1. For gatherings of more than 10 vehicles, the Host must, at its own cost, arrange for and provide security sufficient to ensure compliance with the Order and address any traffic and safety issues. The amount of security necessary shall be determined by the entity providing security but should be no more than that deemed necessary to maintain safety and ensure compliance with the Order. The Host shall comply with this provision by doing one of the following:
 - a. If the Host already employs security officers, the Host may use its existing security officers.
 - b. The Host may arrange for a local law enforcement agency with primary jurisdiction over the location of the event (the “Agency.”) to provide security and pay the associated costs established by the Agency.
 - c. The Host may retain a private security business to provide security.
 2. The Host must develop and abide by a Highly Regulated Vehicle-Based Gathering Plan (“Gathering Plan”), as described in Section 8(c). The Gathering Plan must be substantially in the form attached to this Order as Appendix A. The Gathering Plan must be provided to the Agency upon request.
 3. The Host must ensure participants and Personnel adhere to the Face Covering Order and the Social Distancing Requirements as described in the Shelter in Place Order at all times.
 - ii. **Occupants of Vehicles.** The occupants of a vehicle must be members of the same household and shall not change vehicles during the gathering. Further, no more than the legal occupancy in the vehicle is allowed. Personnel and security are not considered occupants of a vehicle and may remain outside.



- iii. **Location.** The gathering must take place in an outside location large enough to accommodate the distancing requirements of this Order and the Shelter in Place Order, e.g. a parking lot or similar space. Further, line spacing between vehicles must be sufficient to allow for emergency entry and exit. The location must be such that it can ensure exclusion of those not invited, but this requirement can be achieved by security. If the location is not the property of the Host, the Host must provide the property owner of the location with the Gathering Plan and obtain written permission or agreement to utilize a location that specifically acknowledges receipt of the Gathering Plan.
- iv. **Invite Only.** The gathering must proceed by invitation only, with the limit tied to the capacity size of the location.
- v. **Limits.** Each gathering is limited to no more than 200 vehicles and can be no longer than three hours.
- vi. **Windows.** If any of the windows on a vehicle is open, the occupants of the vehicle must wear a face covering in conformance with the Face Covering Order.
- vii. **Remain in Vehicle Exceptions.** Except as provided to use toilet facilities or for an emergency, occupants of a vehicle may exit the vehicle only if and when the Host has specifically given express permission for a brief period of time. Such permission must be limited to one vehicle at a time. For clarity, occupants cannot use their time outside of the vehicle to interact with occupants of other vehicles.
- viii. **Local Law.** This Order is in addition to applicable legal restrictions of the jurisdiction where a Highly Regulated Vehicle-Based Gathering occurs, including but not necessarily limited to permit requirements.
- ix. **Prohibition on Providing, Selling, or Exchanging.** No sales or exchanges of any items or food is permitted during the gathering. As a limited exception, the Host may provide a significant document to one participant at a time, e.g. a diploma or other paper, while adhering to Social Distancing Requirements described in the Shelter in Place Order and the Face Covering Order. Any items or food and related refuse brought by occupants of a vehicle must remain in the vehicle.
- x. **Bathrooms.** If the Host of the gathering makes toilet facilities available during the event, they must be sanitized by the Host or Personnel on a regular basis. If portable toilets are provided, they must be sanitized between each use and either hand sanitizer or a handwashing station must be made available. If restrooms in fixed facilities are provided, they must be disinfected at least every 30 minutes. The Host will not allow more



than 5 people to be inside a restroom in a fixed facility at the same time. A Host, with the optional assistance of Personnel, must establish a line system that adheres to Social Distancing Requirements as described in the Shelter in Place Order and which is actively supervised by the Host or Personnel. No more than 10 people are allowed to wait in line at the same time.

- c. **The Gathering Plan.** The Gathering Plan must be provided, upon request, to the Agency at least one week before the event regardless of whether it has agreed to provide security. The Gathering Plan must also be provided in advance to each invitee and to the local jurisdiction if such jurisdiction has a permitting process. The Gathering Plan must also be posted prominently at the gathering location and must include the following, as applicable:
- i. Host contact information, including cell phone number and e-mail address;
 - ii. The total number of Personnel that will be providing services during the gathering;
 - iii. How it will limit the number of vehicles that can enter the designated location for the event;
 - iv. How the arrangement of vehicles will allow for six-foot distance from one another and at all times;
 - v. How the arrangement of vehicles will allow for line spacing between vehicles sufficient for emergency exits;
 - vi. How the Host, Personnel, and security will monitor the gathering so that only the occupants of one vehicle are allowed to exit their vehicle at a time during the gathering (except for toilet facility use and emergency);
 - vii. If applicable, how the Host or Personnel will monitor the line at the bathrooms to ensure Social Distancing Requirements are being met and no more than 10 people are waiting in line;
 - viii. If applicable, how the Host or Personnel will ensure the bathrooms will be disinfected between uses; and
 - ix. If providing private security, the name of the security company and how security will ensure compliance with this Order. For clarity, if the Host already employs security, it may use its existing security officers and identify those employees.
- d. **Essential Activity.** Attending a Highly Regulated Vehicle-Based Gathering will be considered an Essential Activity as defined by the Shelter in Place Order.



- e. **Essential Travel**. Traveling for the purpose of attending and returning from a Highly Regulated Vehicle-Based Gathering will be considered Essential Travel as defined by the Shelter in Place Order.
9. Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order. The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.
10. This Order shall become effective at 06:00 a.m. on May 19, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.
11. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the Office of the Director of Contra Costa Health Services, 1220 Morello Avenue, Suite 200, Martinez, CA 94553; (2) posted on the Contra Costa Health Services website (<https://www.cchealth.org>); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order. Questions or comments regarding this Order may be directed to Contra Costa Health Services at (844) 729-8410.
12. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, 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:



Chris Farnitano, M.D.
Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa

Dated: May 15, 2020

Attachment: Appendix A – Highly Regulated Vehicle-Based Gathering Plan



County risk level

New cases

Positive tests

WIDESPREAD

Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed

More than 7

daily new cases (per 100k)

More than 8%

Positive tests

SUBSTANTIAL

Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed

4 - 7

daily new cases (per 100k)

5 - 8%

Positive tests

MODERATE

Some indoor business operations are open with modifications

1 - 3.9

daily new cases (per 100k)

2 - 4.9%

Positive tests

MINIMAL

Most indoor business operations are open with modifications

Less than 1

daily new cases (per 100k)

Less than 2%

Positive tests



Press Release

More Businesses and Services Can Reopen in Contra Costa Thanks to Improving COVID Situation

 Like 1.6K

 Tweet

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Thanks to recent progress being made in the fight against COVID-19 in Contra Costa, indoor restaurants, gyms, movie theaters, massage businesses and places of worship may now open with restrictions in the county.

The changes come after the county qualified to move into the less restrictive red tier ("substantial") of the state's four-tiered, color-coded reopening system (<https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>) today. Contra Costa had been in the state's purple or "widespread" tier, the most restrictive tier.

Moving into the red tier means the following sectors can reopen with modifications:

- Places of worship, restaurants, movie theaters and museums can be operated indoors at 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is less
- Gyms can reopen indoors at 10% capacity
- All personal care services, including massage, can move indoors
- Indoor shopping malls can operate at 50% maximum occupancy (instead of 25%). Food courts can also open following the state's guidelines for restaurants.
- Indoor retail stores can now operate at 50% capacity (instead of 25%)
- Outdoor playgrounds

"The credit really belongs to the residents of Contra Costa, who have adapted to the new normal and modified their lifestyles to reduce the spread of COVID in the county," said Dr. Chris Farnitano, the county's health officer.

Elementary and secondary schools can reopen for in-person instruction on Oct. 13 if the county remains the red tier for two more weeks. Currently, elementary schools can apply for a waiver from the health officer to reopen.

In order to move into the more permissive red tier, the county had to see average case rates drop below 7 per 100,000 people and testing positivity rates dip below 8%. For the past two weeks, Contra Costa has met those benchmarks. As of Tuesday, the case rate was 6.7 per 100,000 people and the testing positivity rate was 3.7%.

Dr. Farnitano noted that Contra Costa continued to see its COVID numbers improve or remain steady even after the Labor Day weekend, suggesting fewer people engaged in risky behaviors like large social gatherings compared to the previous holiday weekends.

Health officials caution that COVID is still circulating in the community and people should continue to take all the same precautions health officials have been advising for months: wear face coverings in public, maintain physical distancing, wash hands frequently and stay home if you're sick.

In addition, health officials encourage essential workers and people with lots of close contacts outside their own household

CONTACT

CCHS Media Line,
925-608-5463

RELATED

- [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
[Latest Local Information](#)

to get tested (<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/get-tested>),
for COVID at least monthly.

Businesses and other organizations should review their
applicable industry guidance for reopening safely
(<https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>) from the state. For
more information about COVID-19 in Contra Costa, visit
cchealth.org/coronavirus ([/coronavirus/](#)).

#

Contra Costa County Openings at a Glance

In all cases, social distancing & face coverings are required.
For sector specific guidelines, visit covid19.ca.gov.

Open ✓ Closed ✗

Athletic Fields	✓
Automobile & Bicycle Repair	✓
Bars, Brewpubs, Breweries, Pubs & Craft Distilleries	✗
Campgrounds, RV Parks & Outdoor Recreation Facilities	✓
Car Washes	✓
Cardrooms & Racetracks (outdoors only)	✓
Childcare Facilities & Activities	✓
Construction	✓
Dental Care	✓
Dog Parks	✓
Drive-in Theaters	✓
Family Entertainment Centers (outdoor only with modifications for activities like kart racing, mini golf & batting cages)	✓
Financial Institutions	✓
Funeral Homes, Mortuaries & Cemeteries	✓
Gas Stations	✓
Golf Courses	✓
Government Services	✓
Grocery & Other Food Stores	✓
Gyms & Fitness Centers (max 10% capacity indoors)	✓
Hair Salons & Barbershops	✓
Healthcare, Pharmacies & Medical Supply	✓
Higher Education (max 25% or 100 people, whichever is fewer, capacity indoors)	✓
Hotels & Short-Term Rentals	✓
Laundromats	✓
Libraries (curbside pickup)	✓
Live Performances & Entertainment (only virtual or drive-in events)	✓
Logging & Mining	✓
Logistics & Warehousing Facilities	✓
Manufacturing	✓
Movie Theaters (max 25% capacity indoors)	✓
Museums & Exhibit Spaces (max 25% capacity indoors)	✓
Music, Television & Film Production	✓

Nail Salons	✓
Offices for Critical Infrastructure Sectors	✓
Offices for Non-Critical Infrastructure Sectors	✗
Outdoor Businesses	✓
Outdoor Swimming Pools	✓
Parks (including picnic & BBQ areas & playgrounds)	✓
Personal Care Services (massage, facials, waxing, electrolysis, tattooing, permanent makeup & piercing etc.)	✓
Places of Worship & Cultural Ceremonies (max 25% or 100 people, whichever is fewer, capacity indoors)	✓
Indoor Playgrounds (including bounce centers, ball pits & laser tag)	✗
Outdoor Playgrounds	✓
Professional sports without live audiences	✓
Public & Private Transportation Services	✓
Public Events & Gatherings (nightclubs, convention centers, concerts & live audience sports, etc.)	✗
Real Estate	✓
Recreational Team Sports	✗
Residential & Commercial Maintenance Services	✓
Restaurants (max 25% or 100 people, whichever is fewer, capacity indoors)	✓
Retailers & Shopping Malls (max 50% capacity indoors)	✓
K-12 Schools (distance learning only)	✓
Saunas & Steam Rooms	✗
Shooting & Archery Ranges	✓
Skate Parks	✓
Small Group Gatherings (outdoors)	✓
Tennis & Pickleball Courts (singles only)	✓
Theme Parks & Festivals	✗
Utilities	✓
Veterinary Care & Groomers	✓
Wineries & Tasting Rooms (outdoors only)	✓





BUSINESS Guidance for Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

Scenario	Immediate Action	Follow Up
COVID-19 Symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing) (No known contact to COVID-19 positive case)	Send home and recommend contact with primary care provider for recommendations regarding need for testing. Testing is readily available through CCHS . For Symptom Screening consult CDPH Employer Playbook for Safe Reopening	Remain open. Notification of workplace cohort in this scenario is at the discretion of each institution and not required by CDPH or CCHS. No notification of CCHS required.
Positive COVID-19 Individuals with or without symptoms and have laboratory confirmed COVID 19	Must isolate at home . <u>With symptoms:</u> May return after 10 days have passed since start of symptoms, if symptoms are improving and no fever for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication). <u>Without symptoms:</u> May return after 10 days have passed since the date of positive COVID-19 test. If symptoms develop during isolation period, may return 10 days after test if symptoms are improving and no fever for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication). <u>No repeat testing required to return to work.</u> <u>Next Steps</u> 1. Identify close contacts . 2. Quarantine & exclude exposed contacts for 14 days after the last date the case was present at business while infectious. 3. Recommend testing of contacts, prioritize	Notify CCHS: 1. CCHS Business Intake Form 2. Proceed with isolation and notification of close contacts. 3. CCHS Locations Case Investigator will follow up with business contact to discuss next steps. Employee notification requirements can be found in Section 4 of CA AB685 . <u>Cleaning instructions:</u> If notified of a positive COVID-19 case within previous 24 hours - close facility, clean and sanitize concentrating on all high touch surfaces and areas where employee spent their time. Facility



	symptomatic contacts (this will not shorten 14- day quarantine)	can reopen once sanitized.
Negative COVID-19 Test after Symptoms* *Testing is recommended no sooner than 5-7 days after exposure to an individual who is positive for COVID 19.	May return to work after 24 hours of symptom improvement and no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication).	Remain open. Notification of workplace cohort in this scenario is at the discretion of each institution and not required by CDPH or CCHS. No notification of CCHS required.
Contact to COVID-19 No symptoms (whether Tested or Untested) Never had symptoms but was tested due to close contact with a COVID case.	Must continue quarantine at home for 14 days after the last known close contact with the positive case. Testing is highly recommended, but a negative test does not release one from quarantine Symptoms can develop even after testing negative, at any time within 14 days after exposure, so strict adherence to quarantine is required. Testing is recommended no sooner than 5-7 days after exposure to an individual with positive COVID19 test.	No notification of CCHS required.
Contact to COVID-19 Symptomatic	Must quarantine at home for 14 days after the last known close contact with the positive case. Testing is highly recommended and if completed and returns positive, refer to actions and follow up for "Positive COVID-19." If tests negative, must complete 14-day quarantine.	No notification of CCHS required.
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDPH Employer Playbook for Safe Reopening • CDPH Covid-19 Guidance Documents • CDC Cleaning and Sanitizing your Facility • CDC Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces for COVID-19 • EPA List N: Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19 • Cleaning and Disinfecting After a Confirmed Covid-19 Case 	CCHS COVID Testing Info and Scheduling CCHS General Covid Information Hotline: (844) 729-8410 Email: covid.business.tracing@cchealth.org

Revised 09-28-2020



Julie Enea

From: Jenny Tsang
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 3:18 PM
To: Julie Enea; Supervisor Candace Andersen; Supervisor Mitchoff;
Subject: RE: September 17, 2020 - Ad Hoc Covid-19 Committee - Public Comment (Outdoor Classroom)

Superintendent Mackey and Board of Supervisors,

Please discuss the county's considerations of outdoor classrooms. My questions are below.

Thank you,
Jenny Tsang

From: Jenny Tsang

To:

Subject: September 17, 2020 - Ad Hoc Covid-19 Committee - Public Comment (Outdoor Classroom)

On p. 15 and 16 of Superintendent Mackey's presentation today, one of the social distancing considerations is outdoor classrooms.

- 1) Please describe the specific efforts our county has made to genuinely consider this?
- 2) Has the County contacted Green Schoolyards, as I've suggested in prior emails?
- 3) Did any Board of Supervisor or Superintendent Mackey participate in the September 1 Q&A session from Green Schoolyards?

Sincerely,
Jenny Tsang

Julie Enea

From: Stella W
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Julie Enea; Supervisor Mitchoff; Gayle Israel
Cc: Chris Hsu
Subject: Followup Question for Question for Dr. Warne

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Dr. Warne,

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our letter and of the questions asked by others at the Ad-hoc Committee on Covid-19 Economic Impact and Recovery. Your responses were some of the most comprehensive and clear we have heard in public forums.

We would like to understand what practical implications our child's school's proposed hybrid plan would have on quarantine and contact tracing.

What is the protocol if a student has a confirmed covid case in the following hypothetical example?

- A student attends four classes on Monday and four classes on Thursday (day-on/day-off schedule).
 - She attends seven indoor classes in six different classrooms. One PE class is held outdoors.
 - Of the indoor classes, five are 65 minutes long and two are combined into a single 140 minute period.
 - Each indoor class has a median of 13 students
 - Indoor classroom exposure in total Monday is to 17 unique students
 - Indoor classroom exposure in total on Thursday is to 44 unique students
 - Over those two days there are 52 unique students in indoor classrooms.
 - The classrooms allow 6' distance between student desks
 - Each day there is a 10-minute snack period in which students will be unmasked and outside
 - Three times a day, she walks for 5-10 minutes from classroom to classroom
 - These transfers are not in a stable group, but are a shuffle of 600 students in all three grades simultaneously walking to their next class
 - All members of the household are asymptomatic
 - She gets a screening test on Thursday that returns a positive result on Sunday.
1. How many days do you go back in the week to identify contacts?
 2. Which students are considered exposed contacts?
 3. Who performs the identification of exposed contacts?
 4. How long would you expect it to take to identify and contact the exposed contacts?

Many thanks for all that you do for public health everyday, and especially these days.

Best,

Stella Wotherspoon & Chris Hsu
Lafayette, CA 94549

--

Julie Enea

Subject: FW: Emails for ad hoc agenda

From: Joe Queirolo

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 6:54 AM

To: Colleen Awad

Subject: Re: Question for Health Services

Colleen,

As an addendum to my previous question, perhaps Health Services could also discuss why Contra Costa is the only Bay Area county (I don't consider Sonoma to be in the Bay Area since it wasn't one of the counties that synchronized their responses in the early days of the pandemic) not to move into the red zone. Again, is it something about the citizenry or is it something about the way the response has been managed?

I'd really like an answer. I'm surprised the Board of Supervisors doesn't want one as well.

Thanks,

Joe Queirolo

From: Joe Queirolo

Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 1:05 PM

To: SupervisorMitchoff

Subject: Covid-19 test turnaround time

Dear Supervisor Mitchoff,

The State says 90% of test results are returned in two days. Contra Costa says our test results are returned in 2-4 days so presumably we're in the 10%. Why are we so far behind the curve on this?

Thanks,

Joe Queirolo

Concord



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Subcommittee Report

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COVID-19 ECONOMIC IMPACT AND RECOVERY

4.

Meeting Date: 10/15/2020
Subject: RECORD OF ACTION FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 MEETING
Submitted For: David Twa, County Administrator
Department: County Administrator
Referral No.:
Referral Name:
Presenter: Julie DiMaggio Enea **Contact:** Julie DiMaggio Enea
(925) 655-2056

Referral History:

County Ordinance requires that each County body keep a record of its meetings. Though the record need not be verbatim, it must accurately reflect the agenda and the decisions made in the meeting.

Referral Update:

Please see the attached list of attendees and draft Record of Action for the September 3, 2020 meeting.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

RECEIVE and APPROVE the Record of Action for the September 17, 2020 meeting.

Fiscal Impact (if any):

No fiscal impact.

Attachments

ATTENDANCE RECORD 9-17-2020

DRAFT Record of Action for the September 17, 2020 Meeting

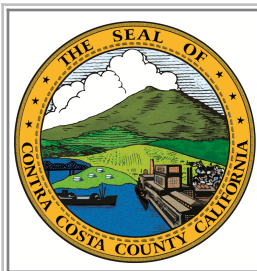
AD HOC COVID CTE
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020
ATTENDANCE RECORD

Caller 1	Ali Rago	Brian Doherty
Caller 2	Alicia Nuchols	Briana Espindola
Caller 3	Allyson Niemeth	Brigitte Black
Caller 4	Amanda	Brooke Flemer
Caller 5	Amanda Johnson	Brooke Heskett
Caller 6	Amanda M ♥ □	Bruce Burns
Caller 7	Amanda Pisani	BT
Caller 8	Amanda Viano	BT (Visions In Education)
Caller 9	Amo	ca
Caller 10	Amrita Kaur	caaca
Caller 11	Amrita Kaur	Call_in_user_1
Caller 12	Amy BCWC	Cameron C.
Caller 13	Amy Cocotis	cameron perry
Caller 14	Amy McDonald/Conn	Candi's iPhone
Caller 15	Andrea Clifton	Candice Christopherson
Caller 16	Andrea Djajakusuma	Carol (cbrock)
Caller 17	Angela OShea	Carrie Wright
Caller 18	Anna-Lisa	Casey (caseyfarwell)
Caller 19	Anne O	Charissa
Caller 20	Anne-Marie Kahrovic	Che Horder
Caller 21	Anne-Marie Kahrovic	Chris
Caller 22	Annie David	Chris Hsu
Caller 23	Anouschka Wardy	Chris Hsu
Caller 24	Anouschka Wardy's iPhone	Chris Wikler
Caller 25	Anthony Lastrico's iPhone	Chris Winters
Caller 26	areasoner	Christen Northrop
.	ashleigh	Christi
. (Emily Geislinger)	Ashley Alfaro	Christina Miller
...	Barbara's iPad	Christina Olvera
19252John williams	Beard# Andrea H	Christina Petricca
A	Becky Arnott	Cindy (Cindy City of Oakley)
Adam	Benihana Concord	Cinthia Santana
Adam DL	Beth CUTRER	CM
Admin	Betsy Horvath	Cole Pasjuta
Adrienne's iPhone	Bill Churchill	Colleen Awad
AJ	Brandi Wright	Colleen McClure
Alberto	Brenda Brown	Collette Hanna

Concord Fam (Sam)	Esther McClellan	jason savage
Courtney N	Ethan Ruff	Jay .
Courtney Trantham	Evangelina Taylor	JB (Jaimie Bowman)
CPedersen	Eveline Castro	JD (Jessica Dolan)
Crissy Jean Ordonia	French Family	Jeanne
Cristina	Gabriel Medina	jehle
curt schultz	Gareth White	Jen Juroff
Daddys phone	Garret Deal's iPhone	Jenee Kelly
Daisy T	Garrett P (Garrett Padia)	Jenn
Dana Eder	Gayle Israel	Jenny Tsang (Jenny Tiu)
Daniel Test	Gena Howarter	Jerry L (e)
Danny Carey	Gene (Gene Brtalik)	Jessica
Danville	Ginalisa	Jessica Lucia
Darcy Pantano	Glenda Romero	Jessica Petry
Daryn Nabeta	Greg Steele	jgalbraith
David Sanchez	gsteele	JHild
Denise	Heather Aguiar	Jill
Denise M	heather jones	Jill Ray
Dennis Garrison	Heather Schiffman (Heather Schiffman # Contra Costa GAD)	Jillian Gehling
Diana Matos	heatherkawalkowski	Jim D (Jim Daggs)
Diane's iPhone	hello	jim hilton
Dolores M	Hilary Cleary	JO (Jasmine O)
dompruett	Howard's iPhone X	Joan Tyryfter
Doris Pau Mendoza (Pau Mendoza)	iPad (2)	JoeFoSho (Joe Noth)
doughertyja	iPhone	John Nickerson
Douglas Rich	iPhone alyson	John Pamer
dr fauci	iPhone C	Jorja Garlick
Drake Morra	iPhone Wendy's iPhone	Joseph Chrisman
Dustin	Irene	Josh
dylan	Irina	JP
EC (Emily Chambers)	Ivy Louie	JP (Janet Pollak)
edelyn baldonado	J Dougherty	Juan Valdez
Eileen (Eileen Villamil)	j dupo (jonettedupont)	Juana8
Elias Mandilaras	James Rogers	judy dean
Ellen Mossman	Janell's Galaxy S20 5G	Judy gadd
emily	Janette	Judy Trafas
Emily (Emily Justice)	Janice's iPhone	Julie Boswell
Emma Boyden	Janielle Rios	JULIE ENEA
Eric Rovere	Janis Allocco	Juliet
Erika McCulloch	January's iPhone	Julio Navas
Erin	Jared Thomsen	Justin Ezell
Erin Brooks	jason	JUSTIN FIVELLA
Erin Oloughlin		

Kacey Barron's iPhone	Lisa Bissell Paulson	Nermeen Iskander
Kandee Shuken BCWC	Lisa Doherty	Nichol Carranza
Karen Goodshaw	Lisa Lazarus	Nick
Karen Mitchoff	Lisa Willis	NICOLE (Braeden Zachry)
karen mitchoff	Lisa Wirth	Nicole Bartholow
Kari G	Lisa's iPhone	Nicole Damhesel
Karlo Umali	Lisa's iPhone new	Nicole Kleven
kate	Liz Blee	Nizza Serrano
Kate Heyman	Liz Dachauer	nsautner
Katherine	Lori Chapman	Oliver Symonds
Kathleen Clarke	Iorib	Open Now
Kathleen Koontz	Lucy Bartel	Oscar Navarro Jr
Kathryn Fireman	Luis	Oscars iPhone
Katie Greenfield	Luke Chan	Patience Ofodu
Kayla	luz	Patricia
Kelly Gilbert	Lynn Mackey	Patrick Mahin's iPhone
Kerry Hollister	Lynn Valdez	Peter Griffin
Kiki	m_samuels	Peter Medina
Kim	Macey's	Rachel Oliver
Kim Lind	Mackenzie Leshner	Rachelle's iPhone
Kim McCarl	Maddi Bell	Randy Coddington
Kimba Joy Theurich	Madeline Molkenbuhr	Randy Reyes
Kirsten iPhone	Madi Sipe	Randy Sawyer
Kirsten VanderVorst	Mamacita	Reid Butler
Kirsti	maria	Renald.Mesina
kittschwitters	Mark's iPhone	Renee Seaton
Kitty Darcy	Maryann Croy	Renee Seaton
Kristi's iPhone	melissa khashabi	Robin
Kristy Zacharias	Michelle	Robyn
KRON ON	Michelle Kiernan	room1sea
Lacey Deal	Mike McDermott	Ryan Atlas
Lara DeLaney	Mike Tolentino	Sabrina Outland
Laura Griffith	mitch	Samuel Gold
Laurie's iPhone	Molly's iPhone	Sandra Stright
Ibristol	Monique Willson	Sara
LC	moorem	Sara Emery Gutierrez
Leah Rosenthal-Kambic (Erin Martin)	Morgan's iPhone	Sarah Bradford
lesleefrey	Mrs. Kelley	shadi takeshi
Leslie	Mrs. Facer	Shannon Bruce
Leslie Walker	Nana Tracey	Shannon Mundelius
LH (Lori Harsch)	Natalie's XR	Shannon Veltri
Lina's iPhone	NEIL's iPhone	Shari Downum
Lindsey's iPhone	Nena Smith	Shawna Radabaugh

Shirley	Wendy Klos
Skye & Alex Hayworth	wharper
SP	Yajaira
Stacy Cerruti	Yesmi Solis
Stanley Team	Yvonne
Stella Kondonijakos	Zachhary Tompkins
Stella Wotherspoon	
Stephanie	
Stephanie Cookson	
Stephanie Davenport	
Stephen McCaffree	
StrCe001	
Stretch Pants	
Stretch Pants (Stretch Pants Biggest Fan)	
Stripe Family	
Sue Putnam	
Sunshine Drive	
Supervisor Candace Andersen	
Susan Morgan	
Susanna Wong Ordway	
Suzy Pak	
Tami's iPhone	
Tammy	
Taylor Family	
Tess Bramer	
The Mills Family	
THEYFAKEDATA	
timdoll's iPhone	
Tina Sherwin	
Tina Sherwin	
Tom Lawson Plumbers & Steamfitters UA 159	
Tom Warne	
Tonya Dean	
Tracy Story	
Transplant Mom	
Unlimited	
Vern Taylor	
Vi Ibarra	
Victor Hernandez's iPhone	
vkalic	
W (Wendy Diaz)	
Wade Finlinson	
Walnut Creek (Taylor Brost)	



AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COVID-19 ECONOMIC IMPACT AND RECOVERY

THE RECORD OF ACTION FOR
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Supervisor Candace Andersen, Chair
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, Vice Chair

Present: Chair Candace Andersen
Vice Chair Karen Mitchoff

Staff Present: Thomas Warne, M.D., Deputy County Health Officer
Lynn Mackey, County Superintendent of Schools
Julie DiMaggio Enea, Senior Deputy County Administrator

1. Introductions

Chair Andersen called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., and introduced Vice Chair, Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, Deputy County Health Officer Dr. Tom Warne and County Superintendent of Schools Lynn Mackey.

2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

All public comment was taken after Item 3.

3. RECEIVE update on most recent COVID-19 developments.

Dr. Warne presented updates from Contra Costa Health Services Department.

The County Health Officer issued a new social distancing order effective September 16 to align with the California Blueprint for a Safer Economy. The new blueprint is less confusing, and easier to decipher and anticipate when businesses can open. Under the new blueprint, additional personal care services not involving the face may now open outdoors, racetracks and cardrooms may operate outdoors, film/music/TV production may operate, and professional sports can resume without live audiences. The blueprint maintains guidance on social bubbles.

The County is currently in the Purple or most restrictive tier of four tiers. By taking health and safety precautions, we can help the County move to the less restrictive Red Tier and advance the county's economic and social recovery.

Cchealth.org/corona now has the dashboard updated to align with the State's new metrics. Two main parameters determining Tier placement:

1. # of new cases of virus per day per 100,000 people, averaged over 7 days. We are currently 7.1. To advance to Red Tier, we will need to get below 7 and maintain that for two weeks.
2. Positivity rate, % positive of all new tests in the County. Current rate is 4.7%, which is low enough to move to the Red Tier. We need to keep testing in order to maintain this rate. Testing is fast, free and convenient. Recommends getting tested at least once monthly if even no symptoms. Average turnaround time is 2-4 days.

Current trends indicate that the County may be able to move to Red Tier in October.

The County is working on school waivers for lower elementary grades. 20 have been approved/posted on the State website. We have not denied any applications. The Office of Education is working to strengthen applications. The broader opening of schools will depend on the county moving to the Red Tier.

Confluence of the pandemic with flu season is a concern. A double surge during winter months could overwhelm hospitals. It is possible to contract both COVID and seasonal flu, so Dr. Warne recommends getting a flu shot. Symptoms of COVID-19 and seasonal flu are similar.

CCHealth has developed guidance for Halloween and strongly discourages traditional Halloween trick or treating because it becomes difficult to maintain social distancing and hygiene, particularly between people from different households. It would present an unsafe situation this year.

In response to questions received during previous week:

False positives? Inaccurate tests are a problem but shouldn't prevent the county from getting to the lowest tier. PCR tests and now antigen tests have high sensitivity and specificity. False positives will likely be less than 2%, and that 2% rate applies only to tests that should have been negative so, mathematically, its even much lower than 2%.

In reference to the State switching to median vs. mean/average, Dr. Warne believes that the median will be easier to achieve than the numerical mean.

Dr. Warne clarified that HOA pools can be used in accordance with State guidance for pools. First, a virus prevention plan must be put in place, rules will need to be observed and a pool monitor is required.

He referred people to the State guidance regarding indoor sports camps. The State has guidance about stable cohorts, up to 16, or 14 children and two adults.

Regarding social distancing postings for businesses, and the concern that the required postings reduce visibility and present a security concern, Dr. Warne said that the local health order no longer requires the posting of local health orders at places of business. However, the State guidance requires that most businesses post a checklist (available at the State website) applicable to their business sector.

Regarding school openings, the County is following the State guidance. We are not

being more restrictive than the State in this and with the waiver process. We are ahead of some of the other Bay Area counties in recommending school waivers.

Regarding safety upon school reopening, the State guidance limits size to the “number practicable”. Regarding concerns about cohorts becoming too big, the State guidance is clear and County will not be limiting cohorts beyond what the State requires. Local school districts will craft their own plans in accordance with State guidelines.

Supervisor Andersen invited public comment.

- Mike McDermott cited a report that ranks all states by restrictions and said that California is the most restrictive and has the highest unemployment rate. In that context, there is an opportunity for California to learn from other states’ data, particularly in terms of school openings. Is the County actively looking at other states that are further down the road, to give Contra Costans confidence that we could open schools safely?*
- Eileen expressed concern about psycho-social and mental health of middle and high school students by not permitting them to attend school. She asked if waivers will ever be granted for these age groups.*
- Stella Wotherspoon asked how large or small should school cohorts should be. She discussed the amount of exposure her own child would have due to non-exclusive cohorts. She said the State guidance needs clarity and a firm maximum rather than merely a suggestion. She said safety should be the first priority.*
- Ginalisa works in a veterinary setting that cannot socially distance. She asked if the business has discretion over whether customers are to be allowed in the facility or not.*
- Jared Thomsen asked if there is a way to have a children’s ministry outdoors on the church school property.*
- Brenda Brown, a Center-based childcare provider, asked if her group size can be increased from 10 to 14.*
- Jen Juroff asked why the County changed the cohort size from 15:1 to 14:2 and why are we continuing to be so restrictive on youth sports? She asked at what point is it a family’s choice whether or not to participate in these activities vs. a government decision. She cited a report on 90,000 youth soccer players with less than a 0.5% infection rate.*
- Jenny Tsang referenced pages 15-16 in Lynn Mackey’s presentation, and asked what efforts the County has made to consider this. She asked if the County has contacted green school yards and did any County Supervisor or Superintendent Mackey participate in the September session from green school yards.*
- Juana asked why we do not just permit outdoor schooling with masks, utilizing tents and P95 masks. She asked how to effectively influence State guidelines.*
- Elias Mandilaras asked about the timeline for indoor businesses to open. When we move to the Red Tier, can we open the next day? What is the best-case scenario?*
- Chris Tsu appreciates the County Health Officials holding firm despite the public pressure to relax safety rules. He said that practicable means “able to be done” but doesn’t necessarily mean that a thing “should be done”.*

- *Kirsten's iPhone asked why the county is more restrictive than State Purple Tier on Elementary school waivers. She said County restrictions will make it impossible for public schools to reopen under a waiver.*
- *Unidentified Caller said the school reopening policy is based on flawed logic: it's too dangerous for public schools to open but not too dangerous if they apply for a waiver and get it. Regarding youth sports, she considers competitive swimming as an individual sport rather than a group sport and requested a carve out for swimming.*
- *Bruce Burns, Moraga School District Superintendent and educator, said the decision to close or open schools is very weighty. He expressed appreciation for all involved in the decision-making process.*
- *Casey Copeland asked if the County Office of Education will mandate that public school districts reopen when the county attains the Red Tier. In her observation, the Martinez Unified School District doesn't appear to be doing any planning to reopen.*
- *Carol asked if there will be discussion and guidelines regarding school transportation, busing*
- *Call in User (ToniR) asked who pays for testing and when was the last time CCC hospitals were overwhelmed? She claimed there is a constant drumbeat of negativity and fear from County officials.*
- *Ch Horder commented on the mental health impacts of keeping schools closed. She said that full contact sports are being played outside of California with no adverse impacts and wants to bring kids out of isolation. She said we need a better balance.*
- *Jim D said his question about faith-based offices were previously answered via the State guidance and had no further questions.*
- *Jerry L asked if there is a study on the efficacy of masks. He asked at what point he could be treated as a responsible adult and not a child of the government, saying that government control and direction has gotten out of hand.*
- *Lisa expressed concern about school districts not wanting to open even when it will be permissible. She asked at what point, if any, will their hand be forced, and what actions could be taken?*
- *Peter Griffin said it's been six months and asked what Tier will permit playgrounds to be opened.*
- *"Unlimited" spoke about the hypocrisy of lawmakers regarding the seriousness of the virus. He called the guidelines tyranny disguised as smiling government officials. He said that Hitler didn't control Germany alone but did it through people he used as tools. He described the negative impact on businesses and families and said that destruction caused by government is worse than that caused by COVID-19.*
- *Amanda asked when colleges are going to be opened.*
- *Diane's iPhone asked for accountability by the tyrants for the huge decline in education. She demanded a plan to reopen schools and put kids first. She asked why we continue to pay taxes for services not provided, and why private schools are being opened but not public schools.*

Chair Andersen thanked the speakers for their input and said that while we do not always agree on these issues, she and other officials will continue to make decisions

they believe are in the best interest of community safety. She emphasized the importance of education and said each school district will make its own plan for reopening.

Dr. Warne explained that the guidance on cohort size has evolved over the last few weeks. The State guidance said the maximum size is 16, which the County had interpreted as 14 children and two adults. However, there is flexibility: it can also be interpreted as 15:1 in certain circumstances. Higher needs children might require a higher ratio of adults to children.

The State has developed specific guidelines for different business sectors. That specificity may seem arbitrary, but they must be sufficiently discrete to be applicable across the state. Once we move to Red Tier, businesses permitted to open in that Tier will not have to wait for a specific County health order.

Dr. Warne said that swimming can proceed in certain circumstances such as a stable swim club operating within the State guidelines. Swim meets can theoretically be done with proper social distancing between lanes and complying with other guidelines.

Currently, playgrounds are not allowed to open in any Tier. We must wait for clearance from the State. He recommended that parents look for opportunities within the guidelines to create social interaction for their kids, such as a stable playgroup.

Veterinary offices without adequate space to do social distancing can use masking to minimize virus transmission. Look for ways to accommodate and maintain distances with owners as much as possible.

With reference to learning from the experience of other states, Dr. Warne agreed that we should be doing more to learn from other states and that this point is very well taken.

He concluded by imploring people to continue to follow the prevention measures and get tested to move our county to the Red Tier.

Chair Andersen said that health insurance will be billed for test costs first. Dr. Warne said the test costs are decreasing. In general, the public is not paying for the tests. If insurance will not pay, then County will pay with CARES Act funds. He said the cost of testing is predictable. The costs of not testing would be very high.

Vice Chair Mitchoff said that people are reporting being denied tests by Kaiser unless they are symptomatic. A reminder will be going out to all county hospitals that anyone can be tested with or without symptoms. If a person is being denied a test, he is instructed to come to the County Hospital for a test. You can schedule online or on the phone.

Testing will assist the County is attaining and maintaining a less restrictive Tier assignment.

She asked that we set our individualism aside in this case and consider the benefit that getting tested will have on others.

4. DISCUSS issues associated with school closures and the preparation for the reopening of schools for 2020-2021.

Chair Andersen introduced County Superintendent of Schools Lynn Mackey. Ms. Mackey acknowledged the very differing opinions on the reopening of schools evidenced by the callers' comments today and said it mirrors similar impassioned input received by her office. Some ask why we aren't opening schools already while others ask why we are considering putting students in harm's way by opening schools. People are very divided on the issue.

She explained the decision-making process. Absent a health order or order from the State or local office, the decision to open or close is up to each local school board. County Schools was waiting for State guidance on how to incorporate all the prevention strategies into the school administration. First, schools were bound by the State's watch list and now the four Tiers. Schools cannot open fully until we attain the Red Tier.

The County Office of Education checks the waiver applications for responsiveness and completeness, and then passes the waivers to the Health Department for review. 31 waivers have been received and 27 have been passed to Health so far. The State approved 16 so far. Public schools have not applied for waivers primarily because of the way public schools are funded and currently staffed. It would not be feasible for public schools to operate with just small cohorts, where one teacher is with the same cohort the entire time. Once we are in the Red Tier, she predicts that schools won't be able to immediately reopen. There will likely be a sort of hybrid model developed using cohorts split between one or more teachers.

She recommended that parents who are struggling with distance learning for their children contact the teachers directly and then the school principal. Possibly, that school can offer an accommodation. Each school district decides whether it will offer specialized supports for high need students.

All the educators want students to come back to school. Once the county attains the Red Tier, each school board will decide its own reopening plan. County Schools will provide guidance that aligns with the State, but the decisions will be made locally by each district and be influenced by local factors. For example, master scheduling is very complex, and it might not make sense to reopen just before the end of a grading period.

Training was recently provided to childcare workers who support distance learning. Because each school board sets the schedule and plan, we need to understand that childcare workers need support. Ms. Mackey promised to bring this matter to the attention of local school superintendents. She is looking into the development of in-person learning scholarships for special needs students.

Regarding school transportation, Districts will survey to determine if any parents are willing to transport students. Only a limited number of students will be allowed on a bus due to social distancing, so they are presently trying to assess the numbers and needs.

She said that high schools and middle schools are not prohibited from using cohorts once they reopen but incorporating cohorts at that school level would be challenging due to curriculum.

She concluded by saying she personally understands the challenges for parents as she is similarly concerned about her grandson. She said she intends to continue attending the County's COVID-19 meetings since schools will likely continue to be a topic of high interest.

Chair Andersen thanked Ms. Mackey for the information she shared.

5. RECEIVE and APPROVE the Record of Action for the September 3, 2020 meeting.

The Committee approved the Record of Action for the September 3, 2020 meeting as presented.

AYE: Chair Candace Andersen, Vice Chair Karen Mitchoff
Passed

6. The next meeting is currently scheduled for October 15, 2020.

Chair Andersen confirmed the next scheduled meeting date of October 15, 2020 unless changing circumstances warrant the scheduling of a special meeting.

7. Adjourn

Chair Andersen adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

For Additional Information Contact:

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