



# County of San Diego

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**WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D.**  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

## **ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER AND EMERGENCY REGULATIONS** (Effective April 9, 2020)

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

Effective immediately, and continuing until April 30, 2020, the following will be in effect for San Diego County (county):

1. All persons are to remain in their homes or at their place of residence, except for employees or customers travelling to and from essential businesses or activities as defined in section 17a, below, or to participate in individual or family outdoor activity as allowed by this Order.
2. All public or private “gatherings,” as defined in section 17b below, are prohibited.
3. All businesses not meeting the definition of essential business in section 17 are referred to in this Order as “non-essential businesses” and shall be and remain closed for the duration of this Order. All essential businesses must comply with the requirements of this Order. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a non-essential business may remain open if its employees and owners can provide its services from home, including by telecommuting, without direct contact with the public.
4. All public or private schools, colleges, and universities shall not hold classes or other school activities where students gather on the school campus. Parents of minor children shall take steps to ensure said children are not participating in activities prohibited by this Order.
5. Child daycare and childcare providers shall operate under the following conditions: i) childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 10 or fewer (“stable” means that the same 10 or fewer children are in the same group each day); ii) children shall not change from one group to another; iii) if more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room; iv) groups shall not mix with each other; and v) childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children; and vi) employees shall wear face coverings whenever food is served in the facility.

6. "Non-essential personnel," as defined in section 17(d) below, are prohibited from entry into any hospital or long-term care facility. All essential personnel who are COVID-19 positive or show any potential signs or symptoms of COVID-19 are strictly prohibited from entry into hospitals or long-term care facilities. Notwithstanding the foregoing, individuals requiring medical care for COVID-19 or related conditions may be admitted to hospitals or other medical facilities if the hospital or medical facility is appropriate for treating COVID-19 and has adequate precautions in place to protect its patients, medical personnel and staff.
7. Hospitals and healthcare providers shall take measures to preserve and prioritize resources, including delaying non-emergent or elective surgeries or procedures where feasible.
8. Hospitals, healthcare providers, and commercial testing laboratories shall report all COVID-19 test results to the Public Health Officer immediately after such results are received.
9. California Department of Public Health Face Covering Guidance issued on April 1, 2020, (available at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Face-Coverings-Guidance.aspx>), shall be followed except as noted in section 11, below.
10. All essential businesses that allow members of the public to enter a facility must prepare and post by no later than 12:00 a.m. on April 7, 2020 a "Social Distancing and Sanitation Protocol" on the form attached to this Order (and available at: [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/covid19/SOCIAL\\_DISTANCING AND SANITATION\\_PROTOCOL\\_04022020\\_V1.pdf](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/covid19/SOCIAL_DISTANCING_AND_SANITATION_PROTOCOL_04022020_V1.pdf)), or on a form required by another governmental entity requiring substantially similar information, for each of their facilities open to the public in the county. The Social Distancing and Sanitation Protocol must be posted at or near the entrance of the relevant facility, and shall be easily viewable by the public and employees. A copy of the Social Distancing and Sanitation Protocol must also be provided to each employee performing work at the facility. All essential businesses shall implement the Social Distancing and Sanitation Protocol and provide evidence of its implementation to any authority enforcing this Order upon demand. The Social Distancing and Sanitation Protocol must ensure all required measures are implemented and must identify and require measures necessary to implement social distancing are implemented at each facility that will ensure social distancing and sanitation at that particular facility. If the measures identified and implemented are not effective in maintaining proper social distancing and sanitation, the business shall promptly modify its Social Distancing and Sanitation Protocols to ensure proper social distancing and sanitation. Any business failing to successfully implement social distancing and sanitation shall be closed.
11. Effective 12:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2020, all employees who may have contact with the public, in any restaurant or other essential business that serves food, grocery store, pharmacy/drug store, convenience store, gas station, bank, or public transportation, shall wear a cloth face covering as described in the California Department of Public Health Face Covering Guidance referenced in section 9, above. Effective 12:00 am on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, all employees who may have contact with the public in banks, or public transportation, shall wear

a cloth face covering as described in the California Department of Public Health Face Covering Guidance referenced in section 9, above. Owners of essential businesses establishments are responsible for ensuring compliance with this section.

12. All public parks and recreation areas, including public beaches, shall comply with section 10, above. Parking lots at such facilities shall be closed, and all such facilities shall be accessible only from members of the public who reside within walking distance of the facility. Said facilities shall be used solely for walking, hiking, equestrian or bicycle riding. The public shall not congregate or participate in active sport activities at said facilities. Swimming, surfing, paddle boarding, boating for recreational purposes, and all other water recreational activities are prohibited on or in public waterways and at beaches. All public parks and recreation areas, including public beaches, where social distancing requirements cannot be effectively implemented shall close. The foregoing does not prohibit public employees from engaging in maintenance or safety activities at these facilities.
13. All essential businesses that remain in operation in accordance with the Order shall enact social distancing, increased sanitation standards, and shall make every effort to use telecommuting for their workforces. All businesses shall suspend any policy or procedure requiring doctor verification for sick or other leave approval.
14. A strong recommendation is made that all persons who are 65 years old or older, have a chronic underlying condition, or have a compromised immune system self-quarantine themselves at home or other suitable location.
15. All persons arriving in the county from international locations identified on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Warning Level 2 or 3 Travel Advisory (available at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>) shall be subject to 14-day home or other suitable location quarantine and self-monitoring.
16. Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or who are likely to have COVID-19, shall comply with the Order of the Health Officer titled: "Isolation of All Persons with or Likely to have COVID-19", or as subsequently amended. Persons who have a close contact with a person who either has COVID-19, or is likely to have COVID-19, shall comply with the Order of the Health Officer titled: "Quarantine of Persons Exposed to COVID-19," or as subsequently amended. Both orders are available at: [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community\\_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/health-order.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/health-order.html). If a more specific isolation or quarantine order is issued to a person, that order shall be followed.
17. For purposes of this Order:
  - a. "Essential business" is any business or activity (or a business/activity that employs/utilizes workers) designated by the State Public Health Officer as "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers" set forth in: <https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf>) as that list may be updated from time-to-time, and referenced in Executive Order N-33-20 issued by the Governor of the State of California. For the purposes of this Order, the following businesses in the Food and

Agriculture Sector are considered “groceries” or “other retail that sells food and beverages”: grocery stores, corner stores and convenience stores, liqueur stores that sell food, farmer’s markets, food banks, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, big box stores that sell groceries and essentials, or similar business that sell food so long as the store has a current permit related to the sale of food and/or beverages from the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health.

- b. “Gathering” is any event or convening that brings together more than one person in a single room or single indoor or outdoor space at the same time, including people in multiple vehicles in one location. A gathering does not include:
  - i. A gathering consisting only of members of a single family or household.
  - ii. Operations at airports, public transportation or other spaces where persons in transit are able to practice social distancing.
  - iii. Operations at essential businesses as defined in section 17a above and where the other requirements set forth in this Order are followed.
- c. “Long term care facility” is a facility serving adults that require assistance with activities of daily living, including a skilled nursing facility, and that is licensed by the California Department of Community Care and Licensing, or the California Department of Public Health.
- d. “Non-essential personnel” are employees, contractors, or members of the public who do not perform treatment, maintenance, support, or administrative tasks deemed essential to the healthcare mission of the long-term care facility or hospital. Non-essential personnel do not include first responders, nor State, federal, or local officials, investigators, or medical personnel carrying out lawful duties. Non-essential personnel do not include visitors to hospitals and long-term care facilities who are granted entry by the facility’s director, or designee, because they are family or friends who are visiting a resident in an end of life or similar situation, are parents or guardians visiting a child who is a patient, or because of any other circumstances deemed appropriate by the facility director, or designee, and where appropriate precautions by the facility that follow federal, State, and local public health guidance regarding COVID-19 are followed.
- e. “Social distancing” is maintaining a six-foot separation from all persons except for household members and medical providers with the appropriate personal protection equipment.

18. This Order is issued as a result of the World Health Organization’s declaration of a worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 disease, also known as “novel coronavirus.”

19. This Order is issued based on scientific evidence regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, as well as best practices as currently known and available to protect vulnerable members of the public from avoidable risk of serious illness or death resulting from exposure to COVID-19. The age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the county places it at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and

asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public—such as older adults, and those with underlying health conditions—at significant risk.

20. The actions required by this Order are necessary to reduce the number of individuals who will be exposed to COVID-19, and will thereby slow the spread of COVID-19 in the county. By reducing the spread of COVID-19, this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the county and will save lives.
21. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference: a) the Declaration of Local Health Emergency issued by the Health Officer on February 14, 2020; b) the Proclamation of Local Emergency issued by the County Director of Emergency Services on February 14, 2020; c) the action of the County Board of Supervisors to ratify and continue both the local health emergency and local emergency on February 19, 2020; d) the Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by the Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020; e) Executive Order N-25-20 issued by the Governor of the State of California on March 12, 2020 which orders that “All residents are to heed any orders and guidance of state and local health officials, including but not limited to the imposition of social distancing measures, to control COVID-19”; f) Proclamation 9984 regarding COVID-19 issued by the President of the United States on March 11, 2020; g) Executive Order N-33-20 issued by the Governor of the State of California on March 19, 2020; h) the “Interim Additional Guidance for Infection Prevention and Control for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Nursing Homes” issued by the CDC; and i) COVID-19 guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health on including, but not limited to the Face Coverings Guidance issued on April 1, 2020.
22. This Order is issued to prevent circumstances often present in gatherings that may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, such as: 1) the increased likelihood that gatherings will attract people from a broad geographic area; 2) the prolonged time period in which large numbers of people are in close proximity; 3) the difficulty in tracing exposure when large numbers of people attend a single event or are at a single location; and 4) the inability to ensure that such persons follow adequate hygienic practices.
23. This Order comes after the release of substantial guidance from the Health Officer, the California Department of Public Health, the CDC, and other public health officials throughout the United States and around the world.
24. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 120175.5 (b) all governmental entities in the county shall take necessary measures within the governmental entity’s control to ensure compliance with this Order and to disseminate this Order to venues or locations within the entity’s jurisdiction where gatherings may occur.
25. Violation of this Order is subject to fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code section 120295.)

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

27. Once this Order takes effect it shall supersede the Amended Order of the Health Officer and Emergency Regulations dated March 27, 2020 and subsequent addenda.

**IS SO ORDERED:**

Date: April 9, 2020



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

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**EMERGENCY REGULATIONS**

As Director of Emergency Services for the County of San Diego, I am authorized to promulgate regulations for the protection of life and property pursuant to Government Code Section 8634 and San Diego County Code section 31.103. The following shall be in effect for the duration of the Health Officer Order issued above which is incorporated in its entirety by reference:

The Health Officer Order shall be promulgated as a regulation for the protection of life and property.

Any person who violates or who refuses or willfully neglects to obey this regulation is subject to fine, imprisonment, or both. (Government Code section 8665.)

Date: April 9, 2020



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