



NEWS RELEASE

Public Health

March 17, 2020

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County orders cancellation of all gatherings; Third case confirmed

In an effort to protect the public from further spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, the County's Acting Health Officer today ordered the cancellation of gatherings of any number of people within the county starting tomorrow through at least April 6.

The order also requires, starting tomorrow, the closing of all movie theatres, gyms, health clubs, bars, adult entertainment establishments, and other businesses that serve alcohol but do not serve food. Food and beverage establishments must follow guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health on Monday (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR20-024.aspx).

The order does not apply to activities "essential to the functioning of our state" including work, public transportation, airport travel, grocery stores, charitable food distribution, certified farmers' markets, and shopping at stores or malls. The order also does not apply to congregate living situations, including dormitories and homeless encampments. All San Bernardino County public schools have voluntarily closed as part of the effort to stop the spread of the virus, according to the County Superintendent of Schools.

"I understand this creates hardships for many families and businesses. But at the end of the day I believe we all understand that we are in this together, and that together, we will get through this," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman, who announced the order today in a video, which can be seen [here](#). "The county is taking every step we can to stay in front of this threat."

"The health risk from COVID-19 to the general public in San Bernardino County remains low at this time, but everyone is strongly urged to engage in practices that reduce the risk of spread," said Acting County Health Officer Dr. Erin Gustafson.

The order also strongly cautions that persons aged 65 years and older and person of any age with certain underlying health conditions are at increased risk should they contract COVID-19, and encourages them to self-quarantine.

The order came amid confirmation today of the third reported case of novel coronavirus infection within San Bernardino County, a woman in her 50s. The county has no fatalities attributable to novel coronavirus.

On March 10, the County Public Health Officer and the Board of Supervisors declared a local health emergency to help ensure county government and the public are prepared for the possibility that COVID-19 will appear within the county.

Various appropriate County departments and agencies have been working together since Jan. 25 to prepare for the possible arrival of the virus within the county. The County Department of Public Health activated its Department Operations Center on Feb. 13.



County Public Health continues to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health to respond to reports of COVID-19.

As with any virus, especially during the cold and flu season, there are a number of steps you can take to protect your health and those around you:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using regular household cleaning spray or wipes.
- If someone does become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough, they should stay away from work, school or other people to avoid spreading illness and seek assistance from their healthcare provider if symptoms become severe.
- N95 masks are not recommended outside a healthcare setting. Surgical masks can be worn by sick individuals to reduce the likelihood of spreading germs to others.

For information about the coronavirus crisis, visit the County's coronavirus website at wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/coronavirus, contact the coronavirus public information line from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at 909-387-3911, or email coronavirus@dph.sbcounty.gov. The public information line is not equipped to handle medical questions or requests for medical care. Medical questions or requests for medical care should be made to medical care providers only.

**SAN BERNARDINO
COUNTY**

Public Health

Trudy Raymundo
Director

Corwin Porter
Assistant Director

Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D.
Health Officer

Erin Gustafson, M.D., MPH
Acting Health Officer

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

CANCELLING ALL GATHERINGS

DATE OF ORDER: MARCH 17, 2020

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a crime punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code § 120295; County Code Section 31.0101 Et. Seq.)

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, TITLE 17 CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS SECTION 2501, AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CODE SECTION 31.0101 ET. SEQ., THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ("HEALTH OFFICER") ORDERS:

1. This Order revokes and replaces the Order originally issued on March 12, 2020. That order is no longer in effect as of the effective date and time of this Order.
2. Effective as of 12:01 a.m. on March 18, 2020 and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 6, 2020, public or private Gatherings, as defined in this Order, are hereby prohibited in the County. A "gathering" is any event or convening that brings together people in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria, or any other indoor or outdoor space. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.
3. This Order does not apply to activities such as attendance at regular school classes, work, or essential services. Certain activities are essential to the functioning of our state and must continue. Hence, this Order does not apply to essential public transportation, airport travel, grocery stores or charitable food distribution, certified farmers' markets, and shopping at a store or mall. This Order also does not apply to congregate living situations, including dormitories and homeless encampments.
4. All bars, adult entertainment establishments, and other business establishments that serve alcohol and do not serve food, shall close. All movie theatres, gyms, and health clubs shall close. Food and beverage establishments are required to follow guidance released from the California Department of Public Health on March 16, 2020 (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-

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19/Coronavirus%20Disease%202019%20and%20Food%20Beverage%20Other%20Services%20-%20AOL.pdf).

5. The Health Officer strongly cautions that persons aged 65 years and older and person of any age with certain underlying health conditions are at increased risk should they contract COVID-19, and are encouraged to self-quarantine.
6. This Order is issued as a result of the worldwide epidemic of COVID-19 disease, also known as "novel coronavirus," which has infected at least 118,000 individuals worldwide in 115 countries and is implicated in over 4,200 worldwide deaths.
7. This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 within the County, in the state of California, and worldwide, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approach to slow transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, as well as best practices as currently known and available to protect the public from the risk of spread of or exposure to COVID-19.
8. This Order is intended to reduce the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19, thereby slowing the spread of COVID-19 in communities worldwide. This Order will help to reduce the number of Californians who contract COVID-19 before an effective treatment or vaccine is available; protect those most likely to experience severe symptoms, such as older Californians and those with underlying chronic conditions; preserve and protect our healthcare delivery system; and minimize the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 over the long run.
9. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the: March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom; the March 10, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency based on an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of novel COVID-19 in San Bernardino County; the March 10, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino proclaiming the existence of a Local Emergency in the County of San Bernardino regarding COVID-19; and the March 10, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino ratifying and extending the Declaration of Local Health Emergency due to COVID-19.
10. This Order comes after the release of guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to cancel all gatherings to fight the spread of COVID-19 (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/cdph-guidance-gatherings-covid19-transmission-prevention-03-16-2020.pdf).
11. This Order is made in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, including but not limited to: Health and Safety Code sections 101030, et seq.; Health and Safety Code sections 120100, et seq.; and Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations section 2501.
12. This Order shall not supersede any conflicting or more restrictive orders issued by the State of California or Federal governments, including any requirements regarding child care. If any portion of this Order or the application thereof 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.

13. To the extent necessary, pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, this order is enforceable by the Sheriff and all Chiefs of Police in the County. The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat to public health.

Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County of San Bernardino Health Administration office located at 351 N. Mountain View Ave., #303, San Bernardino, CA 92415; (2) posted on the County of San Bernardino Public Health Department's website (wp.sbcounty.gov/dph); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

 MP MPH

Dated: March 17, 2020

Dr. Erin Gustafson, MD, MPH
Acting Public Health Officer
County of San Bernardino

Approved as to form and legality:



Dated: March 17, 2020

Adam Ebright
County Counsel
County of San Bernardino