



ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA
AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIAL DISTANCING ORDER TO LIMIT THE
ATTENDANCE OF SPECTATORS AT COLLEGIATE AND PROFESSIONAL
SPORTING EVENTS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

ORDER NO. HO-COVID19-34

DATE OF ORDER: NOVEMBER 4, 2020

Summary of the Order

Based on our current understanding of transmission of the virus that causes Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), local case investigations, and knowledge gained from case investigations and outbreaks across the region and the state, there is a heightened concern about settings where people from multiple households gather. These settings include stadiums, sports training facilities and similar venues that are used to hold sporting events.

On October 27, 2020, Contra Costa County (“County”) moved into the orange (moderate) tier of the State of California’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Guidance issued by the State provides that within the orange tier, professional sporting events at stadiums and racetracks are permitted. Organizers of these events are allowed to admit spectators, but capacity must be limited to 20 percent, and only reserved seating may be made available. Notwithstanding these guidelines, the County Health Officer has determined that, in order to slow the spread of COVID-19, stricter requirements must be imposed. Even with capacity restrictions, social distancing measures and face covering requirements, the convergence of large numbers of spectators at sporting events, whether professional or collegiate, like other types of mass gatherings, creates the potential for a superspreading event.

The Order of the Contra Costa County Health Officer issued on September 14, 2020 (HO-COVID19-28), as amended by the Order issued on October 27, 2020 (HO-COVID19-33) (collectively the “Prior Order”), limits private social gatherings to no more than 25 persons, including a maximum of three households. Consistent with this limitation, for the above reasons, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, this Order modifies the Prior Order to require professional sporting organizations and institutions of higher learning to limit the attendance of spectators at sporting events held in this County to no more than 25 persons, including a maximum of three households.



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. **Amendment.** Section 9 of the Prior Order is hereby amended to read as follows:

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;
- (b) The business activity conforms to applicable guidance issued by the State; and
- (c) The business activity conforms to applicable local restrictions set forth in this Order or any other Order of the County Health Officer, if any.

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/COVID-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.
- c. **Local Restrictions.**

- (1) Professional and collegiate sporting events. Professional sporting organizations and institutions of higher education must limit the attendance of spectators at practices, competitions, or other athletics events held in the County, to no more than 25 persons, including a maximum of three households. For purposes of this Order, a spectator



is defined as a person who attends an event solely to watch the event and is not working at or other participating in the event.

2. **Effective Date and Time:** This order takes effect at 8:00 a.m. on November 6, 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



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

November 4, 2020

