



PROVIDER HEALTH ALERT - APRIL 6, 2020
**HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO DISSEMINATE CONTRA COSTA PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE ORDERS TO PATIENTS WITH
CONFIRMED OR SUSPECT COVID-19 AND CLOSE CONTACTS**

Cases of COVID-19 have continued to increase in Contra Costa County. As of April 6, 2020 there have been 417 cases of COVID-19, including 7 deaths. **Mitigation strategies such as social distancing, isolation of ill individuals, and quarantine of close contacts will be most effective for containing the spread of COVID-19.** On March 31, 2020 the Contra Costa Health Officer issued an updated stay-at-home order directing all residents to continue to shelter in their place of residence, other than to provide or receive essential services, until May 3, 2020 [cchealth.org/coronavirus/pdf/2020-0331-Health-Officer-Order-COVID19.pdf](https://www.cchealth.org/coronavirus/pdf/2020-0331-Health-Officer-Order-COVID19.pdf)).

As the number of COVID-19 cases rise, Contra Costa County Public Health Department will no longer be able to individually notify and track everyone with COVID-19 or their close contacts who may have been exposed. Given this, on April 3, 2020, the Health Officer issued blanket [isolation orders](#) that will apply to all persons diagnosed with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, and blanket [quarantine orders](#) that will apply to close contacts of cases. An exception to the quarantine order has been made for asymptomatic healthcare workers who have been exposed (either at work or in the community) in situations where staffing needs necessitate that healthcare workers continue to work. See [Instructions for Healthcare Workers that are Close Contacts or Household Members to a COVID-19 Case](#).

With these new orders, effective April 3, 2020, Contra Costa Public Health Department directs health care partners to disseminate blanket orders to all patients being tested for COVID-19, or who are presumptively diagnosed with COVID-19 without testing, BEFORE they leave the health care facility; and to discuss quarantine orders for close or household contacts. We greatly appreciate your assistance with getting this information to your patients in order to slow further community transmission of COVID-19, protect vulnerable individuals, and prevent the healthcare system in the county from being overwhelmed. See [press release](#) from 4/3/2020.

Actions Requested of Healthcare Professionals:

- 1. Prioritize COVID-19 testing** as noted in the March 3, 2020 Health Alert:
[cchealth.org/coronavirus/pdf/Health-Alert-Coronavirus-2020-0320.pdf](https://www.cchealth.org/coronavirus/pdf/Health-Alert-Coronavirus-2020-0320.pdf)
- 2. Print out and give:** [isolation orders](#) and [quarantine orders](#), along with [isolation instructions](#) and [quarantine instructions](#) to all patients you are testing for COVID-19 or to patients whom you believe are infected with COVID-19 but are not testing. Orders can be found at: www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/health-services-updates, and instructions and provider updates can be found at: www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/healthcare-providers
- 3. Instruct your patients to:**
 - Self-isolate at home while waiting for the results of COVID-19 testing (if being tested);
 - Adhere to the Health Officer Order of Isolation if their COVID-19 test results are positive or if you empirically diagnose them with COVID-19 without laboratory testing;
 - Follow the Home Isolation and Quarantine Instructions;
 - If diagnosed with COVID-19, inform their household members, intimate partners and in-home caregivers.

