



**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA  
RESCINDING PRIOR ORDER THAT ALLOWED FOR CERTAIN HIGHLY-  
REGULATED VEHICLE-BASED GATHERINGS**

**ORDER NO. HO-COVID19-45**

**DATE OF ORDER: MARCH 25, 2021**

**Summary of the Order**

This Order of the Health Officer rescinds Health Officer Order No. HO-COVID19-13 (the “Prior Order”), effective immediately. The Prior Order allowed for vehicle-based gatherings under strict regulations as an exception to an order requiring individuals in Contra Costa County (“County”) to stay at home in an effort to slow the spread of the virus that causes Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”). Upon rescission of the Prior Order, vehicle-based gatherings will be allowed only if authorized under applicable guidance issued by the State of California.

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. Basis of Order.** On May 15, 2020, the Health Officer issued the Prior Order to authorize people to take part in highly-regulated vehicle-based gatherings, such as graduations, notwithstanding broad shelter in place orders in place at that time at the local and state level. At the time of issuance of the Prior Order, the State had taken the position in litigation that some drive-in gatherings could occur as a technological alternative, but there was no order that expressly authorized vehicle-based gatherings or guidance documents in place that would have applied to these types of gatherings. Now, more 10 months later, the State has issued guidance documents that apply to a variety of business and activity sectors that are allowed to operate under the Blueprint for a Safer Economy (“State Blueprint”), and vehicle-based gatherings are not referenced in any of those guidance documents or mentioned in the State Blueprint. The State has announced that new guidance will be issued regarding outdoor and indoor live events with assigned seating effective April 1, 2021, and that this guidance will allow for events like graduations with specified restrictions. For this reason, to avoid potential conflict with the State Blueprint, the Health Officer has determined that the Prior Order should be rescinded.



2. **Rescission of Prior Order.** HO-COVID19-13 is hereby rescinded.
3. **Effective Date and Time.** This Order takes effect immediately upon issuance.
4. **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:**

March 25, 2021

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

