



**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA
IMPLEMENTING THE TERMS OF THE REGIONAL STAY AT HOME ORDER
ISSUED DECEMBER 3, 2020, BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS**

ORDER NO. HO-COVID19-37

DATE OF ORDER: DECEMBER 4, 2020

Summary of the Order

To slow the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), this Order of the Contra Costa County Health Officer implements the restrictions on businesses and activities set forth in the December 3, 2020, Regional Stay at Home Order issued by the California Department of Public Health, commencing at 10 p.m. on Sunday, December 6, 2020, and continuing until 6 a.m. on January 4, 2021. These restrictions apply throughout Contra Costa County and are in addition to other restrictions set forth 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.** Contra Costa County (“County”) is in the midst of a local, regional and statewide surge of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations that began in the middle of October 2020. On October 14, 2020, the seven-day average COVID-19 adjusted daily case rate was 4.6 cases per 100,000 people in the County. According to the most recently reported data, by November 24, 2020, the adjusted rate had more than doubled, to 9.7 cases per 100,000 persons in the County. Hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients have also increased, from a seven-day average of 27 patients in County hospitals as of October 14, 2020, to a seven-day average of 100 patients in County hospitals as of December 2, 2020.

Data reported by the State of California indicates that 10 percent to 30 percent of COVID-19 patients will require intensive care. Of 116 COVID-19 patients hospitalized in the County on December 2, 2020, 27 were in intensive care units (ICUs), and only 55 ICU beds were available in the County for all patients, leaving the County with 31 percent available ICU



capacity. Available ICU capacity in hospitals in the Bay Area region was 25.3 percent on December 3, 2020, and is projected to fall to 15 percent by December 14, 2020. If the current trends continue, according to State projections, Bay Area hospitals collectively may be operating at 91 percent of their full capacity by December 24, 2020, and by January 1, 2021, the demand for ICU beds may exceed the current supply.

Surge plans are in place to convert non-ICU hospital beds to ICU beds if necessary, and move non-COVID-19 patients to temporary hospital facilities. However, due to limitations in the availability of qualified and trained medical personnel, expanding ICU capacity in this manner is not ideal from the standpoint of patient care. For this reason, the objective now is to manage existing ICU capacity so that all patients who need intensive care have access to an ICU bed. Reducing the number of transmissions of the COVID-19 virus is critical to meeting this objective.

Gatherings of people – social or otherwise – pose risks of virus transmission, even with social distancing and the use face coverings, as neither is 100 percent effective in preventing transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19. The transmission risk is higher indoors than outdoors, but even outdoor gatherings can result in viral transmissions, particularly in locations where people remove their face coverings to eat or drink. Large gatherings are more risky than small gatherings, and prolonged interactions – i.e., longer than 15 minutes – are more risky than brief interactions.

Reducing the maximum occupancy of businesses has been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Based on models of the effect of occupancy limitations, researchers found that a substantial reduction in the maximum occupancy of a business substantially reduces virus spread but does not as sharply reduce the number of visits to the business. In the Chicago metropolitan area, for example, a cap on occupancy of businesses at 20 percent of the maximum was found to reduce the predicted number of new infections by more than 80 percent but there was a loss of only 42 percent of overall visits. Because of the current case and hospitalization rates, it is necessary to impose additional restrictions on businesses and personal activities.

The California Department of Public Health issued a Regional Stay at Home Order on December 3, 2020, (the “State Order”) which imposes new restrictions on gatherings, travel, and business activities, effective regionally based when available ICU capacity drops below 15 percent. A copy of the State Order is attached hereto. To protect the health and safety of County residents, it is necessary to implement the State Order restrictions before the State Order becomes effective regionally.

2. **Implementation of State Order.** Commencing at 10 p.m. on Sunday, December 6, 2020, the restrictions set forth in Sections 2.a. through 2.i. and Section 3 of the State Order will apply throughout the County.
3. **Other Orders.** To the extent that this Order conflicts with the Health Officer’s September 14, 2020, Order (HO-COVID19-28), as amended, which authorizes businesses to operate in the County in accordance with State guidelines and restrictions applicable to the tier of the



State Blueprint that the County is in, or any other Order issued by the Health Officer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this Order will control.

4. **Enforcement.** Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order. The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.
5. **Effective Date and Time:** This order takes effect at 10 p.m. on December 6, 2020, and will remain in effect until 6 a.m. on January 4, 2021, unless it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.
6. **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:



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

December 4, 2020

Attachment: 12/3/20 CDPH Regional Stay at Home Order

