



**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA
SUPERSEDING PRIOR ORDER THAT RESTRICTED GATHERINGS AND IMPOSED
SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS ON INDIVIDUALS TO SLOW THE
SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019**

Order No. HO-COVID19-43

DATE OF ORDER: MARCH 25, 2020

Summary of the Order

This Order of the Health Officer eliminates public and private gathering restrictions and social distancing requirements applicable to individuals that were set forth in the Health Officer's September 14, 2020, Order No. HO-COVID19-28, as amended by Health Officer Orders No. HO-COVID19-33 and No. HO-COVID19-34 (collectively the "Prior Orders"). Persons in Contra Costa County ("County") remain subject to gathering restrictions set forth by the State of California (see <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-for-the-Prevention-of-COVID-19-Transmission-for-Gatherings-November-2020.aspx>).

This Order also eliminates a local restriction on professional and collegiate sporting events and a requirement that government entities identify essential workers. Consistent with the Prior Orders, this Order allows business activities to operate in the County if the activity is in a sector that is open in the applicable tier of the State of California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy ("State Blueprint") and the activity conforms to applicable State guidance. Business activities in sectors that are closed are not allowed.

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 for Order.** In light of stabilization and improvement in rates of cases of and hospitalizations for Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") and testing positivity rates, and continued progress in administering COVID-19 vaccines to people in the County, and applicable State restrictions on gatherings, the Health Officer has determined that certain local restrictions set forth in the Prior Orders are no longer necessary. These include a prohibition on many public and private gatherings, strict social distancing requirements and restriction on the use of dog parks and picnic and barbecue areas.



The State has announced that new guidance will take effect on April 1, 2021, that lays out requirements for outdoor live events, including attendance restrictions. In all but the purple (widespread) tier of the State Blueprint, attendance at these events will be a percentage of the capacity of the venue. The Health Officer has determined that with these new restrictions, there is no need for the restrictions on attendance at professional and collegiate sporting events set forth in the Prior Orders, which allowed only 25 persons and no more than three households to watch these events as spectators.

The Prior Orders required government entities to identify and designate appropriate personnel, volunteers or contractors to provide and carry out essential government functions, and to carry out those functions in accordance with social distancing and other requirements. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, individuals were restricted from leaving their homes except to do certain things deemed to be essential, including providing or accessing essential government functions. At this point in the pandemic, the State permits a broad array of business and other activities that were not considered essential early in the pandemic and has indicated that government services can resume operations with modifications. For this reason, the Health Officer has determined that, although government entities must continue to employ emergency protective measures to address the pandemic, there is no longer a need for government entities to distinguish between essential and non-essential workers for purposes of carrying out essential government functions.

Finally, pursuant to an August 28, 2020, Statewide Public Health Officer Order, a local health officer may reopen business sectors according to the tier of the State Blueprint that the county is in, and must close business sectors according to that tier. For this reason, as did the Prior Orders, this Order allows business activities that are open in the applicable tier of the State Blueprint, and disallows business activities in closed sectors.

2. **Prior Orders.** The following orders are hereby superseded by this Order: HO-COVID19-28, HO-COVID19-33, and HO-COVID19-34.
3. **Intent.** The primary intent of this Order is to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the County and mitigate the impact on delivery of critical healthcare services. All provisions of this Order must be interpreted to effectuate this intent.
4. **Incorporation of Emergency Proclamations.** This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the March 4, 2020, Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom and the March 10, 2020, Proclamation by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors declaring the existence of a local emergency.
5. **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; and
- (b) The business activity conforms to applicable guidance issued by the State.

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/C/OVID-19/Dimmer-Framework-September_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.

- 6. **Government Entities.** Each governmental entity in the County and its contractors must employ all necessary emergency protective measures to prevent, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 7. **Homeless Persons.** Government agencies and other entities operating shelters and other facilities that house or provide meals or other necessities of life for individuals experiencing homelessness must provide them with an adequate supply of hand sanitizer. Individuals experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered and living in encampments should, to the maximum extent feasible, set up their tents or other sleeping quarters with at least 12 feet by 12 feet of space per individual. Government agencies should provide restroom and hand washing facilities for individuals in such encampments as set forth in the CDC's Interim Guidance Responding to Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Among People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/unsheltered-homelessness.html>).
- 8. **Effective Date and Time.** This Order shall become effective at 6:00 a.m. on March 26, 2021, and will continue to be in effect unless it is rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.
- 9. **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.

10. Severability. If any provision of this Order or its application 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.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Dated: March 25, 2021

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

