



**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA  
IMPOSING ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON SPECIFIED HIGH-RISK BUSINESS  
SECTORS TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN RESPONSE TO RISING CASE  
RATES**

**ORDER NO. HO-COVID19-36**

**DATE OF ORDER: NOVEMBER 13, 2020**

**Summary of the Order**

To slow the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), this Order of the Contra Costa County Health Officer imposes the following restrictions as of the date and time set forth in Section 2 of this Order. These restrictions are in addition to other restrictions set forth by the State of California:

- Dine-in restaurants: Indoor dining is prohibited.
- Indoor movie theaters: Concession operations are prohibited. Patrons shall comply with the face covering requirements of Health Officer Order No. HO-COVID19-22 at all times within all areas of an indoor movie theater establishment.
- Gyms and fitness centers: Indoor activities are prohibited.

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 November 10, 2020, the State of California moved Contra Costa County (“County”) back into the red (substantial) tier of the State of California’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy (“State Blueprint”), as the result of an increase in the seven-day average COVID-19 adjusted daily case rate per 100,000 persons, from 4.3 on October 16, 2020, to 5.3 on October 31, 2020. In the red tier, indoor restaurants, indoor movie theaters, and indoor gyms and fitness centers may operate under restrictions applicable to the tier, and guidelines issued by the State of California. However, since October 31, 2020, the COVID-



19 adjusted daily case rate per 100,000 people in the County (seven-day average) has continued to rise. On November 3, 2020, the adjusted rate had risen to 6.2 cases per 100,000 people. Obtaining control over this rise in community transmissions requires the further restriction of high-risk activities. Imposing additional restrictions on these activities now, before the County falls back into the most restrictive tier of the State Blueprint, may reasonably be expected to reduce the number of new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths that would otherwise arise if these new restrictions are not established.

Within the substantial tier, indoor interactions at restaurants, movie theaters, and indoor gyms and fitness centers are considered high risk activities. Attendance at indoor movie theaters involves sitting in an enclosed space for one to three hours a time, with individuals removing their face coverings to eat and drink. Likewise, at indoor restaurants, diners remove their face coverings to eat and drink. At indoor gyms and fitness centers, individuals are exercising and breathing heavily, which has been shown to increase the risk of droplet and aerosol transmission of COVID-19, which can be only partially mitigated by the wearing of face coverings.

For the above reasons, the Health Officer has determined that it is necessary to impose stricter restrictions on the above business sectors in order to slow to spread of COVID-19. The restrictions set forth below are consistent with the restrictions applicable to these business sectors in the purple (widespread) tier of the State Blueprint.

2. **Additional Restrictions on Specified High-Risk Business Sectors.** The following restrictions take effect at 8:00 a.m. on November 17, 2020:
  - a. **Dine-in restaurants:** Indoor dining operations are prohibited.
  - b. **Indoor movie theaters:** Concession operations are prohibited. Patrons shall comply with the face covering requirements of Health Officer Order No. HO-COVID19-22 at all times within all areas of an indoor movie theater establishment.
  - c. **Gyms and fitness centers:** Indoor fitness activities are prohibited.

To the extent that this Order conflicts with the Health Officer's September 14, 2020, Order (HO-COVID19-28), which authorizes business 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 the Health Officer's November 4, 2020, Order (HO-COVID19-35), which imposed restrictions on indoor operations of restaurants and movie theaters in addition to other high-risk business sectors, this Order will control.

3. **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.

4. **Effective Date and Time:** This order takes effect at 8:00 a.m. on November 17, 2020, and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.
5. **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

November 13, 2020

