

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIAL DISTANCING ORDER TO INCREASE
RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN HIGH-RISK BUSINESSES AND ACTIVITIES IN
RESPONSE TO INCREASING COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION OF THE VIRUS
CAUSING COVID-19, HOSPITALIZATIONS AND ILLNESS, AND INCREASING
SEVEN-DAY AVERAGE COVID-19 TESTING POSITIVITY RATE**

ORDER NO. HO-COVID19-24

DATE OF ORDER: JULY 11, 2020

Summary of the Order

This Order of the County of Contra Costa Health Officer imposes additional restrictions on certain businesses and activities in response to rising rates of infection of persons within Contra Costa County (“County”) with the virus that causes Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”). The County is experiencing a significant increase in community transmission and illness from COVID-19. The rate of occurrence of new cases per day has been steadily rising since June 3, 2020. Hospitalization rates have been steadily rising since June 4, 2020. The percentage of test results positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 has been steadily rising since June 20, 2020. As of July 11, 2020, there are 1327 active cases and 77 individuals currently hospitalized with COVID-19 in the County, and the seven-day average test positivity rate is 8.0 percent.

Based on our current understanding of transmission of the COVID-19 virus, local case investigations, and knowledge gained from case investigations and outbreaks across the region and the state, there is a heightened concern about settings where people from multiple households gather. Gatherings where people are together for a prolonged period of time, especially indoors, and settings where people remove their masks to eat and drink, appear to pose the highest risk for transmission at this time. In a scientific brief issued on July 9, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) advises that based on what is currently known, transmission of COVID-19 is primarily occurring when people are in close proximity to each other for prolonged periods of time. While the virus appears to spread primarily through contact and respiratory droplets, WHO reports that airborne transmission may also be occurring, particularly in indoor settings with poor ventilation, via aerosols exhaled by infected persons.

For the above reasons, to slow the spread of COVID-19, this Order modifies a June 16, 2020, Order of the Health Officer (“Social Distancing Order”) by increasing restrictions on certain businesses and activities that were previously cleared for operation, because they present a high



risk for disease transmission due to the prolonged contact between persons who come together in these businesses and engage in these activities. The following summarizes these restrictions:

- **Restaurants and other food facilities:** Specific face covering requirements are imposed at establishments that are open for outdoor dining only. Indoor dining remains prohibited under the Social Distancing Order.
- **Providers of religious services and cultural ceremonies:** Indoor religious services and cultural ceremonies are prohibited. Outdoor religious services and cultural ceremonies may be held in accordance with applicable State guidance.
- **Protests:** Indoor protests are prohibited. Outdoor protests may take place in accordance with applicable State guidance.
- **Social Bubble gatherings:** Persons over age 2 are required to wear face coverings except when eating or drinking. Under the Social Distancing Order, all gatherings of Social Bubbles must take place outdoors.

Specific restrictions are set forth in Appendices C-1 and C-2 attached hereto.

The Order also clarifies the categories of construction projects for the purpose of determining the applicability of certain jobsite safety protocols, and eliminates a requirement to have COVID-19 jobsite safety accountability supervisors at large construction project jobsites be from third-parties, as set forth in Appendices B-1 and B-2 attached hereto.

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. Amendment No. 1. Page 17 of Health Officer Order No. HO-COVID19-18 (the “Social Distancing Order”) is hereby amended by deleting the list of attachments and replacing it with the following:

Attachments:

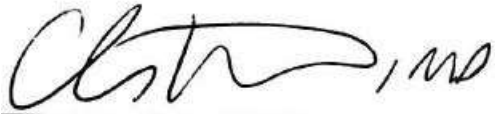
- Appendix A – Social Distancing Protocol
- Appendix B-1 – Small Construction Project Safety Protocol
- Appendix B-2 – Large Construction Project Safety Protocol
- Appendix C-1 – Additional Businesses Permitted to Operate
- Appendix C-2 – Additional Activities



2. **Amendment No. 2:** Appendices A, B-1, B-2, C-1 and C-2 attached hereto are hereby incorporated into the Social Distancing Order and supersede Appendices A, B-1, B-2, C-1 and C-2 previously attached thereto.

3. **Effective Date and Time:** This order takes effect at 11:59 p.m. on July 12, 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



July 11, 2020

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

Attachments:

- Appendix A
- Appendix B-1
- Appendix B-2
- Appendix C-1
- Appendix C-2

