



HEALTH OFFICER ORDER FOR THE CONTROL OF COVID-19 No. 20-07

Public Health Requirements for “Licensed Facilities and Other Agencies”

Date Order Issued: April 13, 2020

This Order is in effect until rescinded in writing by the Health Officer.

SUMMARY OF THE ORDER

California is in a State of Emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a substantial danger to the health of the public within the County of Alameda. COVID-19 can easily spread between people who are in close contact with one another. This Order is issued based on scientific evidence that there is an increased risk of COVID-19 among those working in or living in certain Licensed Facilities and Other Agencies, and among those providing services in the community. The age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population in long term care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and other congregate living settings and agencies in the County of Alameda (“County”) places them at risk for serious health complications, including hospitalization and death, from COVID-19. At the time of this Order, there have been at least 111 cases of infection and 9 deaths at Licensed Facilities and Other Agencies within the County. There is evidence of transmission risk from infected persons before the onset of symptoms. Thus, all Licensed Facilities and Other Agencies and their staff, contractors, and essential visitors entering those sites are required to follow the guidance outlined below.

For purposes of this Order, “Licensed Facilities and Other Agencies” means any facility listed in Appendix A.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA HEALTH OFFICER ORDERS:

Violation of this Order is a crime, punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or a year in jail. (Health & Saf. Code §§ 120295 et seq.; Cal. Penal Code §§ 69 & 148)



Requirements for "Licensed Facilities and Other Agencies" and individuals within those sites

Licensed Facilities and other agencies must implement:

1. **Temperature screening.** All staff, contractors, or essential visitors entering Licensed Facilities or Other Agencies (see Appendix A) must submit to a temperature screening, by the least intrusive means possible, before entering these locations or commencing services in the community.
2. **Self-Evaluation.** Before entering, or providing services in the community for the Licensed Facilities or Other Agencies, all individuals are to self-evaluate for mild to moderate symptoms related to COVID-19 or other respiratory illness, including fever, sore throat, coughing, shortness of breath or general weakness in the past 7 days ("Symptoms").
3. **Prohibition of Entry.** No individual may enter or provide services in the community for a Licensed Facility or Other Agency if a temperature screening of the individual is 100.0° F or 37.8° C or greater, or the individual claims a subjective fever (person feels like they are running a fever); or if through the self-evaluation the individual has Symptoms.
4. **Masking.** All staff, residents who must leave their rooms, and essential visitors at facilities shall cover their nose and mouth with a surgical mask at all times while in the facility. If surgical masks are not available, a clean and dry cloth mask or other cloth covering shall suffice. If cloth coverings are used, they should be laundered after each shift before reuse. If there are suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 at the facility, staff shall wear an N-95 respirator, when available, and additional personal protective equipment recommended by the Alameda County Public Health Department (www.acphd.org) while caring for suspected or confirmed case patients.
5. **Restrict communal activities.** All group activities and communal dining should be cancelled. Staff and residents who must leave their rooms should practice physical distancing and take measures to remain 6 feet apart.
6. **Notification to acute care hospital, EMS, and transport agencies.** If transferring a resident with a suspected respiratory infection to an acute care hospital, the Licensed Facility or Other Agency must notify EMS and the receiving facility that the patient has an undiagnosed respiratory infection. If COVID-19 case(s) are in the facility, notify EMS and receiving facility of potential COVID-19 exposure. Facilities must use the ACPHD Interfacility Transfer Form (Appendix B) when transferring residents.
7. **Staff working at multiple facilities.** Facilities must try to avoid as much as possible using employees who have worked at another Licensed Facility or Other Agency in the past 14



days, while maintaining adequate staffing needs of the facility. Facilities shall keep a daily log of employees present, identifying any other facilities they have worked at in the previous 14 days. That log shall be immediately produced upon demand by any staff of the local health department.

8. This Order shall become effective at 12:01am. on April 14, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.

The Health Officer may take additional action, to protect the public's health if any Licensed Facility or Other Agency, or other individual who is subject to this Order violates or fails to comply with this Order. Violation of this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, fine, or both.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erica Pan".

Date: 4/13/20

Dr. Erica Pan
Interim Health Officer, County of Alameda

Attachments:

- Appendix A – List of Licensed Facilities or other Agencies
- Appendix B – ACPHD Interfacility Transfer Form



Appendix A – List of Licensed Facilities or Other Agencies

- Psychiatric Health Facilities
- Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Intermediate Care Facilities of all license types
- Hospice Facilities
- Home Health and Hospice Agencies
- Home Care Organizations
- Chronic Dialysis Centers
- Social Rehabilitation Facility
- Continuing Care Retirement Communities
- Adult Residential Care Facilities (ARF)

Appendix B

[ACPHD Infection Control Transfer Form](#)

<http://www.acphd.org/media/561884/acphd-infection-control-transfer-form.pdf>