



## **HEALTH OFFICER ORDER FOR THE CONTROL OF COVID-19 No. 20-06t**

### **Public Health Emergency Quarantine Order**

Date Order Issued: April 3, 2020, amended May 4, 2020, June 8, 2020, July 27, 2020, October 30, 2020, December 24, 2020, February 16, 2021, April 27, 2021, May 5, 2021, September 3, 2021, September 10, 2021, November 18, 2021, January 7, 2022, January 10, 2022, February 22, 2022, April 18, 2022, May 9, 2022, June 27, 2022, June 30, 2022, and August 24, 2022

This Order is in effect until rescinded in writing by the Health Officer.

### **SUMMARY OF THE ORDER**

California remains in a State of Emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, changing conditions require modifications to local quarantine strategy. Quarantine separates those exposed to COVID-19 but not yet ill from other people until the exposed person is at lower risk for spreading the disease. As the SARS-CoV-2 virus has evolved to have a shorter incubation period (the time between exposure and becoming ill), exposed persons often become ill before they learn of their exposure, and the most relevant time period for restricting movement by quarantine has passed. Furthermore, with high rates of asymptomatic or mild illness and resumption of most activities of daily life, many individuals are never aware of their COVID-19 exposures, and therefore do not quarantine. In addition, we have a very high vaccination rate in our community, and vaccinated persons have not been required to quarantine outside of high-risk settings. Treatment options are also available to reduce severe disease, hospitalizations, and deaths. Additionally, the financial, social, and societal burden of having those exposed stay home is high, particularly for certain populations, including children and economically vulnerable communities. For these reasons, it is appropriate to modify the County's quarantine policy to more closely align with current [isolation and quarantine guidelines](#) from the California Department of Public Health.

COVID-19 will impact our residents indefinitely. Even with changes to quarantine policy, it is important to continue to use practical measures to control the spread of COVID-19 in our homes, workplaces, and communities. In order to detect infections early and limit the transmission and morbidity of the disease, Alameda County continues to employ a multi-pronged approach, which includes encouraging vaccination and boosters, offering and promoting testing and treatment, promoting public health practices like mask wearing, conducting case and outbreak investigations in prioritized settings, supporting isolation of those infected, and appropriate testing and masking of those exposed to COVID-19.

To help protect vulnerable individuals in high-risk settings the County of Alameda Public Health Officer ("Health Officer") continues to require or recommend the quarantine of persons exposed to a person with COVID-19 as specified below.



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

**Individuals who have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 are required to follow the instructions in this Order and the Public Health guidance documents referenced in this Order.**

**Violation of this Order is a crime, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or a year in jail. (Health & Saf. Code §§ 120295 et seq.)**

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***Quarantine Requirements for Close Contacts of Persons with COVID-19***

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In alignment with [state guidance](#), most individuals who are close contacts of a person with COVID-19 do NOT need to quarantine, unless specified below. However, it is recommended that all exposed persons test between Days 3-5 and wear a [high-quality, well-fitting mask](#) around others for 10 days.

In alignment with [state guidance](#), Alameda County defines a close contact as someone sharing the same indoor airspace (e.g., home, clinic waiting room, airplane etc.) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes) during the infectious period of someone with COVID-19. For the purpose of contact tracing, the infectious period begins from two days before the onset of symptoms or, if asymptomatic, two days before test specimen collection for the individual with confirmed COVID-19.

For the purposes of this Order, a healthcare worker or correctional staff member is not considered to have been in close contact with an infectious person if the healthcare worker or correctional staff member had properly donned appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the entire duration of their contact with the case.

**Specific Circumstances:**

- A. Healthcare providers at licensed acute care hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, and skilled nursing facilities must follow the guidance outlined in the current version of [AFL 21-08](#). Healthcare providers in other settings should follow the CDC's *Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2*.
- B. Emergency Medical Services personnel should follow the guidance on quarantine for healthcare providers in the current version of [AFL 21-08](#).
- C. Staff of Adult and Senior Care (ASC) licensees must follow the guidance outlined in [PIN 21-23-ASC](#), or subsequent guidance from the California Department of Social Services.
- D. Residents of Skilled Nursing Facilities must follow the guidance outlined in [AFL 22-13](#), or subsequent guidance from CDPH.
- E. Students in K-12 educational settings must follow the guidance outlined in [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#) or subsequent guidance from CDPH.



- F. Childcare and preschool programs must follow the guidance outlined in CDPH's [Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs](#).
- G. Residents and staff in settings defined as High-Risk in the [state guidance](#) who are not up to date on recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including available boosters, should follow the [state guidance](#) for those settings except as specified below.
- H. Staff in correctional and detention facilities should follow [state guidance](#) for High-Risk settings except as specified below.
  - i. If the employer of staff in correctional or detention facilities is facing critical staffing shortages, asymptomatic staff may return to work before satisfying the 5-day work exclusion conditions recommended in the [state guidance](#), provided that such staff (a) remains asymptomatic, and (b) has a daily negative antigen or nucleic acid amplification test on work days until the work-exclusion period is completed.
    - a. For the purposes of this Order, critical staff shortages occur when there are no longer enough staff to provide safe care for incarcerated or detained persons or protect public safety and the shortages cannot be alleviated absent the return of the otherwise-quarantined employee to work.
  - ii. Correctional and detention staff who return to work before 10 days have passed must continue wearing surgical masks or respirators at all times during work and must also continue to self-monitor for symptoms each day. If COVID-19 symptom develop at any point during the 10 days after exposure (including if the employee develops symptoms while at work), the employee must immediately return to and remain at home, not return to work, and follow the Health Officer's [Isolation Order and Guidance](#).
- I. Residents in Correctional and Detention Facilities must quarantine for 10 days following exposure to an infectious person, regardless of vaccination status. Asymptomatic individuals who had COVID-19 in the past 90 days are not required to quarantine after a new exposure.
  - i. Residents in quarantine without current COVID-19 symptoms can attend court. The following measures are recommended to limit the risk of transmission while at court or during transport, to the extent practicable:
    - a. COVID-19 antigen testing within 24 hours before court attendance
    - b. Screening for COVID-19 symptoms before transport
    - c. Enforcement of masking requirements during transport and while at court
    - d. Transporting residents in quarantine separately or in separate compartments from those not in quarantine
    - e. Housing residents in quarantine at court facilities in separate areas from those not in quarantine
- J. Residents or staff in any congregate residential setting must quarantine or be excluded from the congregate setting on a case-by-case basis if instructed by the Health Officer or designee.
- K. Other state or federal laws or regulations may apply, including but not limited to workplace safety regulations, which require restrictions or exclusions from work for persons with COVID-19. Nothing in this Order supersedes, overrides, or otherwise modifies such state or federal laws or regulations.



This Order supersedes all prior orders of the County of Alameda's Health Officer regarding quarantine requirements.

This Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on August 25, 2022 and will continue to be in effect until rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.

Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County Administration Building at 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, California 94612; (2) posted on the County Public Health Department's website; and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

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.

The Health Officer may take additional action(s), which may include civil detention or requiring one to stay at a health facility or other location, to protect the public's health if an individual who is subject to this Order violates or fails to comply with this Order. Violation of this Order is also a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, fine or both.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Moss", is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Nicholas J. Moss, MD, MPH  
Health Officer, County of Alameda

August 24, 2022

Date