



HEALTH OFFICER ORDER NO. 23-01

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

RESCINDING MARCH 5, 2020 DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY AND RESCINDING HEALTH OFFICER ORDERS 20-02, 20-05G, 20-06T, AND 20-18

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11:59 p.m., February 28, 2023

Summary of Order: This Order rescinds the County of Alameda Health Officer's declaration of a local health emergency and rescinds County of Alameda Health Officer Orders 20-02 (requiring laboratories to report results of COVID-19 tests), 20-05g (requiring isolation for persons with COVID-19), 20-06t (requiring quarantine for close contacts of persons with COVID-19), and 20-18 (requiring testing of residents in long-term care facilities). These rescissions are effective as of 11:59 p.m. on February 28, 2023.

Background: The County of Alameda's daily reported COVID-19 hospitalizations during the current winter have remained substantially lower than reported hospitalizations during the prior two winters. Daily reported intensive care unit hospitalizations and reported COVID-19 deaths remained well below those of past major COVID-19 waves. Furthermore, available hospital discharge data indicates a decrease in the proportion of hospitalizations attributable to COVID-19 disease relative to COVID-19 infections identified in persons hospitalized for other reasons. Alameda County has remained in the United States Centers for Disease Control and Preventions' category of Low COVID-19 Community Level since January 19, 2023. And County residents have a high rate of vaccination against COVID-19, with 86.6% of residents fully vaccinated and 93.9% receiving at least one dose of the vaccines. Alameda County has also seen uptake of the latest COVID-19 booster vaccine exceeding most California counties and national averages. While COVID-19 continues to circulate within the County, increased immunity among the local population and widely available treatment have rendered the disease considerably less threatening to public health. Accordingly, at this time, the Public Health Officer has determined that there is no longer a need for a declared local health emergency or for the Health Officer Orders listed in this Order.

COVID-19 continues to circulate within the County of Alameda and remains a threat to older adults and the more vulnerable members of the community. Staying up-to-date with recommended COVID-19 vaccination continues to be the most effective strategy for combating COVID-19 and preventing severe disease, hospitalization, and death. Information on obtaining a COVID-19 vaccine in the County of Alameda is available here: <https://covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines>. High-quality, well-fitting masks and respirators and limiting exposure to crowded, poorly ventilated spaces can provide additional protection against COVID-19 infection. Those at greatest risk of severe COVID-19 should have a plan to access treatment if they become sick.



ORDER

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

A. Rescission of March 5, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency

1. This Order RESCINDS the Declaration of Local Health Emergency issued by the County’s Health Officer on March 5, 2020 per the terms of the Board of Supervisors’ March 10, 2020 ratification of that Declaration. This rescission is effective at 11:59 p.m. on February 28, 2023.

B. Rescission of Health Officer Orders

Effective at 11:59 p.m. on February 28, 2023, the following orders of the Health Officer for the County of Alameda are rescinded in full:

1. Order No. 20-02 (requiring Laboratories to report results of COVID-19 tests)
2. Order No. 20-05g (ordering self-isolation for persons diagnosed with or likely to have COVID-19);
3. Order No. 20-06t (ordering quarantine for close contacts of persons with COVID-19); and
4. Order No. 20-18 (requiring testing of residents in Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs)).

Although Health Officer Orders 20-05g, 20-06t are rescinded, residents are encouraged to look to those Orders or other directives from the Public Health Officer for guidance on how to respond to COVID infections and exposure.

C. Additional Provisions

1. Nothing in this Order is intended to preclude or discourage any County resident or business from taking recommended precautions against the spread of airborne communicable diseases, such as keeping up to date on vaccinations, wearing a well-fitting mask to protect against infection, staying home when sick, and getting tested if exposed or sick.
2. Federal and state orders and regulations continue to apply to all County residents and businesses. Should the State of California issue additional orders or regulations to control the spread of COVID-19, County residents and businesses will be bound by those orders even if they address the same subjects as the orders rescinded by this Order.

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

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

February 28, 2023
Date

