



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

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 and May 5, 2021

This Order is in effect until rescinded in writing by the Health Officer.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 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (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 and best practices as currently known and available to protect vulnerable members of the public from avoidable risk of serious illness or death resulting from exposure to COVID-19. The age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the County of Alameda (“County”) places it at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Making the problem worse, some individuals who contract the virus causing the COVID-19 disease have no symptoms when they are infectious, which means they may not be aware they carry the virus and are transmitting it to others. All individuals who contract COVID-19, regardless of their level of symptoms (none, mild or severe), may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk.

To help slow COVID-19’s spread, protect vulnerable individuals, and prevent the healthcare system in Alameda County from being overwhelmed, the County of Alameda Public Health Officer (“Health Officer”) requires the quarantine of persons exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Quarantine separates individuals who were exposed to COVID-19 from others, until it is determined that they are not at substantial risk for spreading the disease.

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

**All individuals who have had close contact to a person with COVID-19 must quarantine themselves unless they meet specific criteria described below. These persons are required to follow all 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 \$10,000 and/or a year in jail. (Health & Saf. Code §§ 120295 et seq.; Cal. Penal Code §§ 69 & 148)**



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

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**Close contacts** to persons with COVID-19 (“cases”) are defined as individuals who:

- Live in or have stayed at the case’s residence OR
- Are intimate sexual partners of the case OR
- Provide or provided care to the case without wearing a mask, gown, and gloves OR
- Are within 6 feet of a case for a prolonged period of time ( $\geq 15$  minutes). Cumulative exposures that add up to 15 minutes within a day may be considered close contact.<sup>1</sup>

AND

- This contact occurred while the case was determined to be infectious. A case is infectious from 48 hours before their symptoms began and until they are released from isolation.

### **Requirements for Fully Vaccinated Individuals:**

Fully vaccinated means it has been  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose FDA-authorized vaccine series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose FDA-authorized vaccine. A person is also considered to be fully vaccinated  $\geq 2$  weeks after completing a WHO-authorized vaccine series.

- A. **Fully vaccinated individuals** who are close contacts of a person with COVID-19 are NOT required to quarantine IF they are asymptomatic.
- B. Fully vaccinated asymptomatic **health care providers (HCP)** with higher-risk exposures do NOT need to be restricted from work for 14 days following their exposure, unless:
  1. The HCP has a known underlying immunocompromising condition (e.g., organ transplantation, cancer treatment), which might impact level of protection provided by the COVID-19 vaccine; or,
  2. Other state or federal laws or regulations apply, including but not limited to workplace safety regulations, which may require restrictions or exclusions from work following COVID-19 exposure. Nothing in this Order supersedes, overrides, or otherwise modifies such state or federal laws or regulations.
- C. Fully vaccinated individuals who are not HCP must follow CalOSHA’s *COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS)* at <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/COVID19FAQs.html#vaccines>
- D. Fully vaccinated *residents* of high-risk congregate living settings, such as Skilled Nursing Facilities, **MUST** quarantine for 14 days.

### **Requirements for NON-Fully Vaccinated Individuals:**

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this Order, a healthcare worker or correctional staff who have had contact within 6 feet of a case, even if the cumulative exposure add up to 15 minutes within a day, are not considered to have been close contact with the case if the healthcare worker or correctional staff had properly donned appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the entire duration of their contact with the case.



- A. **Individuals with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis** in the past 90 days AND who are *asymptomatic* are NOT required to quarantine after a new exposure.
- B. **The duration of quarantine** for individuals who are not fully vaccinated and do not fall under (A) above is at least 10 days and up to 14 days after the date of last close contact to a COVID-19 case, except as specified below.
1. Quarantine begins immediately after the exposure. Day 0 of quarantine is the date of last close contact and Day 1 is the following day.
  2. A 14-day quarantine remains the safest option, and individuals who are in regular close contact with persons at high risk for severe disease should continue to quarantine until after day 14 from the date of the last exposure. This includes healthcare providers and other individuals who live or work in congregate living facilities, such as skilled nursing facilities, correctional facilities, shelters for unhoused persons, and dormitories, except as specified below.
  3. **Healthcare providers (HCP)** at licensed acute care and skilled nursing facilities must follow the quarantine guidance in the California Department of Public Health [AFL 21-08.2](#). HCP in settings other than licensed acute care and skilled nursing facilities should be excluded from work during their quarantine period, in the absence of critical staffing shortages.
  4. Asymptomatic **HCP, emergency response personnel, and social service workers who work face-to-face with clients in the child welfare system** may return to work before completing quarantine if their employer is facing **critical staff shortages**.
    - a. For the purposes of this Order, **critical staff shortages** occur when there are no longer enough staff to provide safe patient, resident, or inmate care or protect public safety and the shortages cannot be alleviated absent the return of the otherwise-quarantined employee to work.
    - b. For the purposes of this Order, **emergency response personnel** includes Federal, state, and local law enforcement; 911 call center staff; hazardous material responders from the public and private sectors; and EMT firefighters
    - c. Workers may return to work **after Day 7** from the date of last exposure if they have received a negative result from a PCR test performed after Day 5. This is considered a completed quarantine.
    - d. Workers may return to work **before Day 7**, but must test negative by PCR multiple times on different days before Day 7 (e.g., Day 3, Day 5).
    - e. Workers who return to work before completing their full quarantine must continue wearing surgical masks or respirators at all times during work, and must also continue to self-monitor for symptoms each day. If an employee develops symptoms at any point during the 14 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.
    - f. Workers who return to work before completing quarantine may only leave quarantine to provide services needed to alleviate the critical staffing shortages in the Public Safety Sector or health care sector. These individuals remain subject to



the quarantine restrictions at all other times until their quarantine period is complete.

- C. Other state or federal laws or regulations may apply, including but not limited to workplace safety regulations, which require restrictions or exclusions from work following COVID-19 exposure. Nothing in this Order supersedes, overrides, or otherwise modifies such state or federal laws or regulations.

**Individuals who are required to quarantine** may not leave their place of quarantine or enter any other public or private place except to receive necessary medical care. They should carefully review and closely follow all requirements listed in the [Home Isolation and Quarantine Instructions for People with Coronavirus-2019 \(COVID-19\) Infection and their Household or Close Contacts](#)

**If a quarantined person becomes sick** with fever, cough, or shortness of breath, or other [symptoms of COVID-19](#) (even if their symptoms are very mild), they should isolate themselves at home and away from other people and follow the [Home Isolation and Quarantine Instructions for People with Coronavirus-2019 \(COVID-19\) Infection and their Household or Close Contacts](#). This is because they are likely to have COVID-19 and if so, can spread it to vulnerable individuals.

**All persons ending quarantine before Day 14, or who are not required to quarantine, must:**

1. Strictly adhere to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions, including wearing face coverings and maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others.
2. Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms, and self-isolate and seek testing immediately if symptoms occur.

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:**

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

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May 5, 2021

Date