



HEALTH OFFICER ORDER FOR THE CONTROL OF COVID-19 No. 20-06f

Public Health Emergency **Quarantine** Order

Date Order Issued: April 3, 2020, amended May 4, 2020, June 8, 2020, July 27, 2020,
October 30, 2020, and December 24, 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This Order is in effect until rescinded in writing by the Health Officer.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 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. Workers in the Public Safety Sector, as defined in this Order, may return to work during the quarantine period if they are asymptomatic and where there are staffing shortages that cannot be alleviated otherwise that pose an immediate threat to public safety. Employers and workers in these circumstances must follow additional [precautions](#) issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”).

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

All household members, intimate partners, caregivers of a person with COVID-19, and individuals who have had close contact to a person with COVID-19 must quarantine themselves. 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)



Quarantine Requirements for Household Contacts, Intimate Partners, Caregivers, and Close Contacts of Persons with COVID-19

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 (≥ 15 minutes). Cumulative exposures that add up to 15 minutes within a day may be considered close contact.

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.

All individuals who have been close contacts to a person with COVID-19 must immediately take the following actions:

1. Stay in their home or another residence through 10 days from the last date that they were in contact with the person infected or likely to be infected with COVID-19. Day 0 is the date of last exposure, and Day 10 is the last date of quarantine.
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 individuals who live or work in congregate living facilities, such as skilled nursing facilities, correctional facilities, shelters for unhoused persons, and dormitories.
3. Quarantined persons may not leave their place of quarantine or enter any other public or private place except to receive necessary medical care.
4. Carefully review and closely follow all requirements listed in the “Home Quarantine Instructions,” at <https://covid-19.acgov.org/isolation-quarantine#quarantine>.
5. 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 Instructions,” posted at <https://covid-19.acgov.org/isolation-quarantine>. This is because they are likely to have COVID-19 and if so, can spread it to vulnerable individuals.
6. During periods of critical staff shortages, health care and emergency response personnel, and social service workers who work face to face with clients in the child welfare system or in assisted living facilities, 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. Employees allowed to return on Day 7 under this paragraph must use surgical face masks at all times during work and continue to quarantine while not at work through Day 14 after last exposure. For purposes of this paragraph “critical staff shortages” occur when there are no longer enough staff to provide safe patient, resident, or inmate care and the shortages cannot be alleviated absent the return of the otherwise-quarantined employee to work.



7. All individuals ending quarantine before Day 14 should adhere strictly to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions, including wearing face coverings at all times, maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others, and self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms through Day 14.

ONLY those individuals who are critical workers in the Public Safety Sector or provide direct patient care, as defined below, may return to work during the quarantine period, and ONLY if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The worker is asymptomatic despite exposure.
2. The worker is employed in the Public Safety Sector, which for purposes of this Order means:
 - a. Federal, state, and local law enforcement
 - b. 911 call centers
 - c. Hazardous material responders from the public and private sectors
 - d. EMT firefighters

OR

The worker provides direct care to patients.

If the worker provides direct patient care, the worker should adhere to the Day 7 quarantine strategy described above unless there is not sufficient staff to ensure the safety of patients, in which case the worker must be tested, using a PCR test, multiple times on different days before Day 7 (e.g., Day 3, Day 5).

3. The employer is facing critical staffing shortages that cannot be alleviated absent the return of the otherwise-quarantined employee to work.
4. The critical staffing shortage poses an immediate threat to public or patient safety.
5. Workers who return to work early under this provision 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.

The employee permitted to return to work during the quarantine period must conduct a self-assessment, including a temperature and symptom check before leaving home to go to work until the end of the quarantine period. The employee must wear a surgical mask at work for the remainder of the 14-day period. The employer must assess the otherwise-quarantined employee, including a symptom check, before allowing the employee to enter the workplace until the end of the quarantine period. Both employer and employee must monitor the employee's condition throughout the day for symptoms. If an employee develops symptoms while at work, the employee must immediately return home and follow the Health Officer's Isolation Order and Guidance.

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'.

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

December 24, 2020

Date