



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

Public Health Emergency **Quarantine** Order

Date Order Issued: April 3, 2020, amended May 4, 2020, June 8, 2020, July 27, 2020,
and October 30, 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This Order is in effect until rescinded in writing by the Health Officer.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 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 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (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. Currently, there is no commercially available vaccine available to protect against COVID-19 and no specific treatment.

To help slow COVID-19’s spread, protect vulnerable individuals, and prevent the healthcare system in Alameda County from being overwhelmed, it is necessary for the County of Alameda Public Health Officer (“Health Officer”) to require 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 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).

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 identified as close contacts to a person with COVID-19 must immediately take the following actions:

1. Stay in their home or another residence through 14 days from the last date that they were in contact with the person infected or likely to be infected with COVID-19. Individuals are required to quarantine themselves for the entirety of the 14-day incubation period because they are at high risk for developing and spreading COVID-19. A negative COVID-19 test result within the 14-day period will not reduce the quarantine period, as individuals may become positive after the test. Close contacts must stay in quarantine for the entire 14-day period from last contact.
2. Quarantined persons may not leave their place of quarantine or enter any other public or private place except to receive necessary medical care.
3. Carefully review and closely follow all requirements listed in the “Home Quarantine Instructions,” at <https://covid-19.acgov.org/isolation-quarantine>.
4. If a quarantined person becomes sick with fever, cough, or shortness of breath (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.

ONLY those individuals who are critical workers in the public safety sector, 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
- “Public Safety Sector” does not include health care workers and EMT firefighters.
3. The employer is facing critical staffing shortages that cannot be alleviated absent the return of the otherwise-quarantined employee to work.
AND
 4. The critical staffing shortage poses and immediate threat to public safety.

A Public Safety Sector 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. A Public Sector Employer must assess the otherwise-quarantined employee, including a temperature and 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:

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

October 30, 2020

Date