



ALAMEDA COUNTY COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY PRESS RELEASE

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA ★ CALIFORNIA

Office of Emergency Services
4985 Broder Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 13, 2020

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Alameda County Public Health Department

Alameda County Health Officer Issues Order Requiring All Licensed Facilities to Implement Guidance to Control the Spread of COVID-19

The Order applies to all long-term care facilities, skilled nursing facilities and other congregate living settings and agencies in the County.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA – Alameda County Health Officer Dr. Erica Pan issued an Order for all Licensed Facilities and Other Agencies, as well as their staff, contractors and any essential visitors entering those sites to comply with guidance to control the spread of COVID-19. The Order becomes effective at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

“People living and working in congregate living settings, like skilled nursing and residential care facilities, are at increased risk of infection because COVID-19 spreads between people who are in close contact with one another,” said Dr. Pan. “Due to underlying health conditions and age, the residents face higher risk of serious health consequences including hospitalization and life-threatening illness.”

To fulfill the Order’s requirements, all Licensed Facilities and Other Agencies must:

- Implement temperature screenings for all staff, contractors and other essential visitors before allowing entrance or commencing services in the facility.
- Ensure all individuals who enter or provide services to the facility self-evaluate for mild to moderate symptoms related to COVID-19. Symptoms include fever, sore throat, coughing, shortness of breath or general weakness in the past 7 days.
- Prohibit entry to anyone who has a temperature of 100.0° F or 37.8° C or greater, feels like they have a fever, or has symptoms identified through self-evaluation.
- Implement masking among staff, residents and other essential visitors to cover their nose and mouth while in the facility and, for residents, outside their rooms. Appropriate and recommended Personal Protective Equipment must be worn by staff when available if there is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 at the facility.
- Cancel all group activities and communal dining. Staff and residents who must leave their rooms should practice physical distancing and remain six feet apart.
- Notify acute care hospitals, Emergency Medical Services and transport agencies if a resident who is suspected or confirmed of having COVID-19 is being transferred to an acute care hospital. If the

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facility already has COVID-19 case(s), then they must notify EMS and the receiving hospital of potential COVID-19 exposure.

- Avoid, as much as possible, staffing scenarios that use employees who have worked at another Licensed Facility or Other Agency in the past 14 days while maintaining adequate staffing at the facility. Facilities must keep a daily log of employees present, identifying any other facilities the employees have worked at in the previous 14 days, and that log must be produced immediately if requested by any staff member of the Alameda County Public Health Department.

The Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association is closely partnering with the Alameda County Public Health Department’s Long-Term Care Facility Task Force. “This order outlines public health guidance that was given previously and that all facilities should be following,” said Terry Hill, MD, COVID-19 Medical Director for the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association. “Now that we are seeing increasing cases and outbreaks in long-term care and residential facilities, we believe this new Order will help keep patients safer by making compliance mandatory.”

Alameda County has already prioritized the delivery of Personal Protective Equipment to these facilities and increased efforts to help address staffing and other resource needs. The County has also activated a Long Term Care Facilities Task Force, which works directly with facilities to prevent and mitigate outbreaks.

Governor Gavin Newsom announced on Friday, April 10 steps the state is taking to protect residents and employees of California’s nursing home and residential care facilities. California Public Health Officials are working closely with the County’s Long-Term Care Facilities Task Force to support the implementation of disease control strategies, as well as outreach to facilities that don’t have a confirmed case but are most vulnerable to an outbreak.

“We continue to view our role with these facilities as a partner in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting the health and well-being of residents and staff,” said Dr. Pan. “We hope and expect all facilities will work urgently to implement and maintain the guidance outlined in this Order, and we will continue to support them in their efforts.”

The full list of the types of facilities affected can be found in Appendix A of the Order. For updated COVID-19 information and resources, visit acphd.org/2019-ncov.

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