SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH
PUBLIC HEALTH, POLICY & PLANNING

Dr. Scott Morrow, Health Officer
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Public Health, Policy & Planning
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ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER No. c19-3b (Revised)

DATE ORDER ISSUED: March 26, 2020

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code §§ 120295, *et seq.*)

The virus that causes Coronavirus 2019 Disease ("COVID-19") spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to safeguard the public and protect healthcare resources considering the influx of new patients. That is why it was necessary to impose a **School Operations Modification Order** on March 13, 2020, to prevent initial exposure and secondary transmission to our most vulnerable populations (people over 60 years old or those with chronic health conditions). The Order requires Schools, as defined below, in San Mateo County ("County") to dismiss students from regular school attendance beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 and continuing for two weeks through Friday, April 3, 2020, unless rescinded earlier by further action of the Health Officer. This Order revises the March 13, 2020 School Operations Modification Order to extend it through May 1, 2020, without any substantive changes.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO (THE "HEALTH OFFICER") ORDERS:

1. Effective Thursday, March 26, 2020, at 12 p.m., Order of the Health Officer No. c19-3 ("the School Operations Modification Order") originally set to expire on April 3, 2020, is hereby revised to extend through 11:59 p.m. Friday, May 1, 2020. All Schools in the County, as defined below, are hereby ordered to continue to modify operations in accordance with this Revised Order. In all other respects, the School Operations Modification Order shall remain in full force and effect, and its provisions are restated herein for convenience.

2. This Revised Order continuing the School Operations Modification Order comes after the release of substantial guidance from the County Health Officer, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") (including "Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission" available online at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf), the California Department of Public Health ("CDPH") (including "School Guidance on Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19" available online at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/School%20Guidance_ADA%20Compliant_FINAL.pdf), and other public health officials around the world. The prior guidance included recommendations to consider if student dismissal from regular School attendance is warranted and length of time based on the risk level within the specific community as determined by the local public health officer. The Health Officer has concluded based on an assessment of current conditions that the School Operations Modification Order should be extended. To the extent that the



CDC or CDPH updates guidance and/or conditions change, the Health Officer may modify or rescind this Order.

3. This Revised Order is issued based on scientific evidence and best practices as currently known and available to prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 specifically, as well as 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 places it at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk. This is especially true as some individuals who contract the COVID-19 virus have no symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means they may not be aware they carry the virus. Because even persons without symptoms can transmit the COVID-19 virus, and because evidence shows the disease is easily spread, dismissal of students from regular School attendance can result in preventable transmission of the virus.

4. This Revised Order is issued in light of the existence of 195 cases of COVID-19 in the County, over (including 5 deaths), as of 10:30 a.m. on March 26, 2020, and a significant and increasing number of assumed cases of community transmission. Widespread testing for COVID-19 is not yet available but is increasing. This Order is necessary to slow the rate of spread of COVID-19 while further data becomes available.

5. This Revised Order is issued to prevent circumstances often present in Schools that may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, such as: (a) students may be asymptomatic; (b) the prolonged time period in which large numbers of students are in close proximity; (c) the difficulty in tracing exposure when large numbers of students attend the same School; and (d) the inability to ensure that students follow adequate hygienic and social distancing practices.

6. This Revised Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the March 19, 2020 State of California Executive Order N-33-20, the March 18, 2020 State of California Executive Order N-30-20, the March 16, 2020 Order of the Health Officer No. c19-3, the March 13, 2020 State of California Executive Order N-26-20, the March 12, 2020 State of California Executive Order N-25-20, the March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, the March 3, 2020 Proclamation by the Director of Emergency Services Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency in the County, the March 3, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency Regarding Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) issued by the Health Officer, the March 10, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo Ratifying and Extending the Declaration of a Local Health Emergency.

7. The Health Officer will continue to assess the quickly evolving situation and may, at any time or from time to time, modify or extend this Revised Order, or issue additional orders related to COVID-19.

8. Definitions:

a. "School" is any public (including charter) or private institution that educates students in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade operated within the County, regardless of size, but shall not include home schooling. "School" includes Adult Schools operated by School Districts and programs for Special Education students up to age 22.

b. For public schools, "School District" is a local education agency directed by an elected local board of education that exists primarily to operate public schools.

9. All School-sponsored and School-related activities, including but not limited to clubs, sports, dramatic and musical productions, fairs, exhibitions, academic and/or athletic competitions, should be canceled or postponed for the duration of this Revised Order and any extension of this Order.

10. Schools and School Districts are encouraged to implement at-home learning models, including but not limited to online learning if feasible. School facilities may remain open to staff for the purposes of performing tasks deemed essential or necessary by the School or School District and providing limited and special services (including but not limited to school meals) to students as deemed appropriate by the School and/or School District.

11. Parents and legal guardians are ordered to take reasonable measures to ensure that students who are not in School as a result of this Revised Order are following recommended guidelines for preventing the transmission of the virus, including social distancing. Students of all ages should be prevented from congregating and engaging in group activities during the pendency of this Revised Order to assist in efforts to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

12. Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Revised Order.

13. This Revised Order extends the School Operations Modification Order that went into effect on Monday, March 16, 2020, and will continue to be in effect through 11:59 p.m. Friday, May 1, 2020, or until it is earlier rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer or by the State Public Health Officer.

14. Copies of this Revised Order shall promptly be: (1) posted on the San Mateo County Office of Education website (available at https://www.smcoe.org/); (2) posted on the County Public Health Department website (available at https://www.smchealth.org/); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Revised Order. In addition, every School that is impacted by this Revised Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Revised Order onsite in a place accessible to the public during regular business hours, as well as on its website.

15. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Revised Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Revised Order.

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IT IS SO ORDERED:

Scott Morrow MD, MPH,
Health Officer
County of San Mateo

Date: March 26, 2020