



## **ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER No. c19-2b (Revised)**

DATE ORDER ISSUED: March 14, 2020  
(Original Order Issued March 12, 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 is necessary to impose the implementation of limitations on large gatherings to prevent initial exposure and secondary transmission to our most vulnerable populations (people over 60 years old or those with certain chronic health conditions). The Order prohibits all gatherings, as defined below, of more than 50 persons and requires the implementation of COVID-19 risk mitigation measures, as set forth below, for gatherings of 50 or fewer persons in San Mateo County (“County”). This Order is effective March 15, 2020, and continues through April 6, 2020, unless rescinded earlier or extended by further action of the Health Officer.

### **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. This Order revokes and replaces Order Number C19-2, originally issued on March 12, 2020. That order is no longer in effect as of the effective date and time of this Order.
2. Effective as of 12:01 a.m. on March 15, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 6, 2020, public or private Gatherings, as defined below, of more than 50 persons are hereby prohibited in the County.
3. Effective as of 12:01 a.m. on March 15, 2020 and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 6, 2020, public or private Gatherings, as defined below, of fewer than 50 persons are hereby prohibited in the County unless hosts or sponsors implement all of the COVID-19 risk mitigation measures, as set forth below.
4. Although Gatherings, as defined below, of fewer than 50 persons are not prohibited if hosts or sponsors implement each of the COVID-19 risk mitigation measures, the Health Officer strongly urges hosts and sponsors to cancel all such Gatherings, as any interaction can cause amplification of spread.
5. The Health Officer strongly cautions that persons aged 60 years and older and persons of any age with certain underlying health conditions are at increased risk should they contract COVID-19, and therefore should avoid gatherings of any size.





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6. This Order comes after the release of substantial guidance from the County Health Officer, the Centers for 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](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf)), the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) (including the March 11, 2020, updated guidance recommending gatherings with 250 people or more should be rescheduled or canceled and smaller gatherings can proceed if organizers implement 6 feet of social distancing, available at <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/03/11/california-public-health-experts-mass-gatherings-should-be-postponed-or-canceled-statewide-to-slow-the-spread-of-covid-19/>) and other public health officials around the world. The Health Officer has determined that additional, stricter measures are necessary given the increasing scope and severity of the threat that COVID-19 poses.
7. This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 within the County, 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.
8. This Order is issued in light of the current identification of 32 cases of COVID-19 (including one death) in the County, over 150 cases in the surrounding Bay Area, and a substantial and increasing number of assumed cases of community transmission. Widespread testing for COVID-19 is not yet available but is expected to increase in the coming days. This Order is necessary to slow the rate of spread of COVID-19 while further data becomes available.
9. This Order is issued to prevent circumstances often present in Gatherings that may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, such as: (a) the increased likelihood that Gatherings will attract people from a broad geographic area; (b) the prolonged time period in which large numbers of people are in close proximity; (c) the difficulty in tracing exposure when large numbers of people attend a single event; and (d) the inability to ensure that attendees follow adequate hygienic and social distancing practices.
10. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, 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, the March 11, 2020 and March Order of the Health Officer No. C19-1 restricting visitors to skilled nursing facilities, the March 12, 2020 State of California Executive Order N-25-20, and the March 13, 2020 Order of the Health Officer No. C19-3, imposing a School Operations Modification Order .



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11. 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 Order, or issue additional orders, related to COVID-19.

12. Definitions:

- a. For purposes of this Order, a “Gathering” is any event or convening that brings together or is likely to bring together 10 or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed indoor or outdoor space, such as, by way of example and without limitation, a restaurant, bar, auditorium, theater, stadium, arena or event center, meeting hall, conference room, large cafeteria, yacht, ship or boat docked at any port, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.
- b. A Gathering includes events in confined or enclosed outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and (ii) where people are present and likely to be within arm’s length of one another for more than 10 minutes at a time.
- c. For the purpose of clarity, a Gathering does not include a group of residents within their residence, or normal operations at the following locations where large numbers of people may be present: (i) airports or spaces where persons are in transit; (ii) commercial office space or hotels (iii) places of worship for purposes of conducting religious services or ceremonies; (iv) grocery stores, shopping malls and other retail establishments; and (v) hospitals and medical facilities. For any gathering covered in this subsection c., **the Health Officer strongly urges compliance with COVID-19 risk mitigation measures as set forth below, which social distancing and hygiene practices.**
- d. For purposes of this Order, “COVID-19 risk mitigation measures” include all of the following:
  - i. The space in which the gathering is held must accommodate social distancing by allowing all attendees to stand or sit at least six feet from any other attendee;
  - ii. Proper hand hygiene and sanitation material must be readily available to all persons at all times, including soap and waste receptacles. If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used.
  - iii. Persons hosting gatherings must alert prospective attendees at least 24 hours prior to the gathering that gatherings pose a heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission, and that older adults and individuals with existing health conditions as identified by the CDC and attached hereto as Appendix A are at particularly serious risk if they contract COVID-19 and should not attend;
  - iv. Persons hosting gatherings must clean surfaces with disinfecting wipes or other standard cleaners before, during, and after the event.



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13. To the extent the Sheriff or any chief of police has any questions regarding the definition of a “gathering” or “COVID-19 risk mitigation measures” under this Order, the Health Officer hereby delegates authority to the County Counsel to answer such questions in writing.
14. Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the San Mateo County Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order.
15. This Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on March 15, 2020, and will continue to be in effect until 11:59 p.m. on April 6, 2020, or until it is earlier rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer or by the State Public Health Officer.
16. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County Government Center at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063; (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 Order. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite in a place accessible to the public during regular business hours, as well as on its website.
17. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this 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 Order.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

/signed/

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

Date: March 14, 2020

