



NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
AGENCY DIRECTOR

County of San Diego

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
3851 ROSECRANS STREET, MAIL STOP P-578
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110-3134
(619) 531-5800 • FAX (619) 542-4186

March 17, 2020

TO: City Municipalities
Unincorporated Area

FROM: Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.,
Public Health Officer & Director,
Public Health Services

RE: **INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER AND
EMERGENCY REGULATIONS, MARCH 16, 2020**

On behalf of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Department of Public Health Services, I am sending you this letter to share important information regarding mitigation efforts for the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

On March 11, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a [directive](#) that, in order to protect public health and slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19, large gatherings should be postponed or canceled across the state of California for at least the remainder of the month of March. Locally, in order to slow the transmission of COVID-19, I issued the following orders:

- On March 12, 2020, an Order of the Health Officer prohibiting gatherings of 250 or more people and regulating entry into long-term care facilities and hospitals effective March 13, 2020 – March 31, 2020.
- On March 16, 2020, an Amended [Order of the Health Officer](#) regarding more specific actions related to gatherings, businesses, social distancing, schools/colleges/universities, and hospital/long-term care facilities, as well as strong recommendations for gatherings, older adults, and home isolation, effective March 17, 2020 – March 31, 2020 and which superseded the March 12, 2020 Order of the Health Officer.

Based on where we are in the progression of this pandemic and the scientific evidence provided, it is essential that we eliminate close proximity in large gatherings, specifically those that bring together 50 or more people in a single space at the same time. Additionally, I am requiring that all businesses enact social distancing, increasing sanitation standards, and utilize telecommuting for its workforce. Per Health and Safety Code section 120175.5 (b), the cooperation of all governmental entities is appreciated in ensuring this Order is followed, as well as enforced, per your jurisdictional responsibilities.

This amended Order will remain in place at least through the month of March and will be assessed at that time. As with all directives and recommendations that relate to the COVID-19 response, we will

COVID-19 Order of the Health Officer

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revisit these actions on a regular basis to evaluate the continued public health need and to evaluate if any elements need to be changed.

The County is here as a resource to municipalities. Previously, we have provided up-to-date information about COVID-19, including resource documents, such as frequently asked questions, informational posters, and recommendations, available at www.coronavirus-sd.com. You may also find the recent [letter](#) helpful that was sent on March 10, 2020, to city municipalities and unincorporated areas throughout the region.

Thank you for your continued support to keep San Diego County healthy, safe, and thriving.

Sincerely,


WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Officer & Director
Public Health Services

Cc: Helen Robbins-Meyer, County of San Diego, Chief Administrative Officer
Nick Macchione, County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Director