



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

County of Fresno

Department of Public Health

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Sections 101040, 120175, and 120175.5(b) the Health Officer of the County of Fresno orders as follows:

1. This order is issued as a result of the World Health Organizations declaration of the worldwide pandemic of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. COVID-19 is contained in the droplets that can be sneezed, coughed, or exhaled into the air by infected individuals.
2. As of today, there are over 417,000 cases in the world and over 17,500 deaths. In California, there are 2365 confirmed cases and 45 deaths. We can expect the number of cases to increase significantly should action not being taken to decrease the spread of the disease.
3. There currently is no available treatment, however, transmission of the disease can be slowed through community mitigation measures that decrease the likelihood of being exposed to the droplets of an infected person. These measures include limiting large scale events and mass gatherings, and practicing social distancing. Aggressive containment operations including isolating suspect cases and persons under investigation and quarantining their contacts can limit the spread of the disease, reduce the impacts of the disease on society, and avoid more stringent measures that would cause further detriment to civil society.
4. Within the public health system, every person who meets the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) criteria for disease within Fresno County has been and will be tested. However, both locally and nationally there is limited testing capabilities due to availability and number of laboratory test kits and specimen collection kits.
5. Effective, Thursday, March 26, 2020, the following will be in effect for Fresno County.
 - a. Health Care Providers shall:

Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health

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- i. On a daily basis report to the public health branch of the Health and Human Services Agency all patients seen in their practice with a febrile respiratory illness
 - ii. The patient information will include demographic information, including age, as well as residential address and clinical status, indicate whether rapid point of care testing was performed and their results, and indicate if COVID-19 testing was done; and
 - iii. Direct the patient, if no exclusionary diagnosis is found, to isolate him/herself for seven days after onset of symptoms or three days after cessation of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND to notify all close contacts to quarantine themselves for 14 days from the last known contact with the patient.
 - b. All Employers shall:
 - i. On a daily basis, while conducting business, screen all employees for febrile respiratory illness
 - ii. Exclude from work all employees that report symptoms of febrile respiratory illness for seven days from the day that they are identified as having symptoms; and
 - iii. Direct employees excluded from work to isolate at home AND to notify all close contacts to quarantine themselves for 14 days from the last known contact with the patient.
 - c. All Residents shall:
 - i. Self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19; and
 - ii. Isolate themselves if they have signs and symptoms for seven days after onset of symptoms, unless they should require further medical attention, AND notify their close contacts to quarantine for 14 days.
6. For the purpose of this order:
- a. Febrile respiratory illness is defined as “a new or worsening episode of either cough or shortness of breath, presenting with fever (temperature 38 degrees C or 100.4 degrees F or higher) or chills in the previous 24 hours;”
 - b. Close contact is defined as someone who has spent 15 minutes or more time within 6 feet or less of the person;
 - c. Isolation is defined as “separation of sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick;”
 - d. Quarantine is defined as “separation and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.”

- e. Social distancing is defined as “maintain a six-foot separation from all persons except for family members;” and
- f. Symptoms of COVID-19:
 - i. Fever
 - ii. Cough
 - iii. Shortness of breath

7. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) may recommend further guidance.

I, as Interim Health Officer for the County of Fresno, encourage voluntary compliance with this Health Officer’s Order. However, violation of this order is subject to fine, imprisonments or both (California Health and Safety Code Section 120295.)

Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is punishable by fine, imprisonment or both under various criminal statutes:

Cal. Penal Code section 148 makes it a misdemeanor to resist, delay, or obstruct a public officer, in the discharge of his or her duty. Sheriff deputies and city police officers are authorized to enforce health orders in the discharge of his or her duty.

Cal. Penal Code section 69 may be charged as a felony for the attempt, by means of any threat or violence, to deter or prevent an executive officer from performing any duty imposed by law, or to knowingly resist, by the use of force or violence, the officer, in the performance of the officer's duty. Sheriff deputies and city police officers are authorized to enforce health orders in the discharge of his or her duty.

Cal. Penal Code section 409.5 allows the health officer to close an area where a calamity has created an immediate menace to public health.

California Health and Safety Code sections 120275 and 120295 makes it a misdemeanor to violate certain sections of the Health and Safety Code, including those requiring individuals to comply with health orders to facilitate isolation or quarantine.



Rais Vohra MD
Health Officer

3/27/2020

Date