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ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

No. HO-COVID19-06

REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS ENTERING CERTAIN LICENSED AND OTHER SPECIFIED FACILITIES

TEMPERATURE SCREENING AND SELF-EVALUATION FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

MASKING OF ALL STAFF AND VISITORS WHILE IN FACILITY

MINIMIZING STAFF WORKING IN MULTIPLE FACILITIES

DATE OF ORDER: April 13, 2020

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

SUMMARY OF THE ORDER

California is in a State of Emergency because of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The spread of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is a substantial danger to the health of the public within the County of Contra Costa ("County"). COVID-19 can easily spread between people who are in close contact with one another. This Order is issued based on scientific evidence and 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 place it at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. There is growing evidence of transmission risk from infected persons before the onset of symptoms. Thus, all individuals who contract COVID-19, regardless of their level of symptoms (none, mild or severe), may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk. Currently, there is no vaccine available to protect against COVID-19 and no specific treatment.

The Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa has determined that there is an increased risk of COVID-19 among persons living or working in licensed healthcare facilities, residential care facilities, shelters, group homes and drug treatment recovery houses. To help slow COVID-19's spread and protect vulnerable individuals, and prevent the healthcare system in the County from being overwhelmed, it is necessary for the Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa to direct the implementation of additional preventative measures.

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

1. Temperature screening. All individuals who are not a patient or existing or new resident at a facility described in Attachment A ("Facility") that is located in Contra Costa County shall submit to a temperature screening immediately prior to entering the Facility. The temperature screenings will be conducted by the operator of the Facility or his or her designee ("Facility Operator"), utilizing the least intrusive means possible, such as by a non-contact infrared thermometer.

2. Self-Evaluation. Immediately prior to entering a Facility, all individuals who are not a patient or existing or new resident at the Facility shall self-evaluate for symptoms of COVID-19 or other respiratory illness, including fever, sore throat, coughing, shortness of breath or general weakness in the past seven days ("Symptoms"). Upon entry into the Facility, the individual shall immediately report the results of the symptom self-evaluation to the Facility Operator.

3. Prohibition of Entry. Except as set forth below, no individual who is not a patient or existing or new resident at a Facility shall enter the Facility if, immediately prior to the planned entry, (a) the temperature screening described in Paragraph 1 of this Order indicates that the individual has a body temperature of 100.0 degrees F. or 37.8 degrees C. or greater; or (b) the individual has identified any Symptoms in the self-evaluation described in Paragraph 2 of this Order. This Paragraph does not apply to necessary companions of patients in Facilities, including a parent or guardian of a child or an attendant necessary for the care, mobility or communication of a patient with access, communication or functional needs.

4. Masking. Each staff member of or adult visitor to a Facility shall cover his or her nose and mouth with a surgical mask at all times while in the Facility, except as follows. If surgical masks are not available, a clean and dry cloth mask or other cloth covering will suffice. If a cloth covering is used, it must be laundered after each shift before reuse. If there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 at the Facility, the Facility Operator shall implement then-current guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention applicable to the use of N-95 masks for suspect or confirmed COVID-19 cases, unless directed otherwise by the County Health Services Department.

5. Physical distancing. Residential group activities and communal dining shall be discontinued. Staff members of and visitors to a Facility shall practice physical distancing by remaining at least 6 feet apart from other persons. The Facility Operator shall direct staff members to provide instruction to residents about practicing physical distancing. All residents of a Facility shall practice physical distancing by remaining at least 6 feet apart from other persons when out of their individual rooms.

6. Notification to emergency dispatch and ambulance transporters. If there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 at a Facility, and either an emergency medical response to, or transport by ambulance from, the Facility is requested, the Facility Operator shall notify the emergency dispatcher and ambulance operator of (a) the presence of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 at the Facility and (b) the COVID-19 status of the patient or resident for which they are requesting emergency medical services or ambulance transport.

7. Staff working at multiple facilities. Facilities must try to avoid as much as possible using employees who have worked at another Facility in the past 14 days, while maintaining adequate staffing needs of the facility. Facilities shall keep a daily log of employees present, identifying any other facilities they have worked at in the previous 14 days. That log shall be immediately produced upon demand by any staff of the County Health Services Department.

8. A copy of this Order shall be posted at all entrances to each Facility immediately upon receipt.

9. This Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on April 14, 2020, and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.

10. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the Office of the Director of Contra Costa Health Services, 1220 Morello Avenue, Suite 200, Martinez, CA 94553; (2) posted on the Contra Costa Health Services website (https://www.cchealth.org); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy.

11. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the reminder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

12. Questions or comments regarding this Order may be directed to Contra Costa Health Services at (844) 729-8410.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Chris Farnitano, MD

Dated: April 13, 2020

Chris Farnitano, M.D.
Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa

Attachment A

Facilities Subject to Health Officer Order HO-COVID19-06

- Psychiatric health facilities
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Intermediate care facilities (all license types)
- Hospice facilities
- Social rehabilitation facilities
- Continuing care retirement facilities
- Adult residential care facilities
- Licensed group homes, including runaway and homeless youth shelters
- Homeless shelters
- Recovery houses or sober living environments providing group living arrangements
- Residential facilities operated by transitional housing programs
- Residential facilities operated by residential substance use disorder treatment programs
- Residential care facilities for the elderly
- Residential facilities for adults with special health care needs