



**DISEASES INDEX - A-Z**

Disease Information & Prevention Home

Communicable Disease Control Home

Diseases Index - A-Z

Disease Prevention

Foodborne Illness FAQ

# COVID-19, County Health Officer's Orders

Select Language   
Powered by Google Translate

## County Health Officer's Order Issued - 3/18/2020

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE TRENDING TOPICS

Advisories and Newsletters	Candida auris
Flu Shot	Hepatitis A
Measles	Novel Coronavirus
Zika Virus	

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 101040, 120175, and 120175.5 (b), the Orange County Health Officer ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. In light of new written, changing state guidance, this Order revises the prior order issued by the Orange County Health Officer on March 17, 2020. The March 17, 2020, order is no longer in effect as of the effective date and time of this Order.
2. Except as provided herein, nothing in this document prohibits businesses or other entities from operating within Orange County. Businesses and entities should operate in accordance with social distancing guidelines issued by the California Department of Public Health.
3. Effective immediately, and continuing until 11:59 p.m., on March 31, 2020, public or private Gatherings, defined by the California Department of Public Health are prohibited. See, CDPH Guidance for the Prevention of COVID-19 Transmission for Gatherings, dated March 16, 2020, available at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/cdph-guidance-gatherings-covid-19-transmission-prevention-03-16-2020.pdf>

Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household, family, or living unit, or the utilization of caregivers.

4. This Order does not prohibit activities such as attendance at regular school classes, going to work, or performing essential services. In accordance with state guidance, certain activities are essential to the functioning of our County and must continue. Hence, with respect to the prohibition on Gatherings, this Order does not apply to essential public transportation, airport travel, shopping at a store, mall, or farmers' market, or charitable food pantries and distributions, or to congregate living situations, including dormitories and homeless encampments. See, <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx>
5. In accordance with written guidance issued on March 16, 2020 by the California Department of Public Health, relating to Retail Food, Beverage, and Other Related Service Venues, (1) all bars and other business establishments that serve alcohol and do not serve food shall close; and (2) all movie theatres, gyms, and health clubs shall close. Food and beverage establishments, food trucks, grocery stores and charitable food distribution sites, and certified farmers' markets are required to follow guidance released from the California Department of Public Health on March 16, 2020. All food served shall be by delivery, or through pick-up or drive-through. For purposes of food delivery and pick-up, social distancing, defined as maintaining a six-foot separation per person for non-family members, shall be required.
6. In accordance with Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, employers shall not require a healthcare provider's note for employees who are sick with acute respiratory illness to validate their illness or to return to work, as healthcare provider offices and medical facilities may be extremely busy and not able to provide such documentation in a timely way.

**Guidance**

7. A strong recommendation is made that all persons who are 65 years and older, or have a serious chronic medical condition (like heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes), or have a compromised immune system remain at home consistent with guidance provided by the California Department of Public Health on Self-Isolation for Older Adults and Those Who Have Elevated Risk.
8. A strong recommendation is made for persons exhibiting mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19 to self-isolate themselves in their place of residence unless seeking medical care.
9. A strong recommendation is made that all businesses enact social distancing, increased sanitation standards, and make every effort to use telecommuting for its workforce.
10. A strong recommendation is made that all residents are to heed any orders and guidance of state and local health officials related to COVID-19.

**General Provisions**

11. This Order and Guidance is necessary to protect and preserve the public health from, and prevent, the increasing transmission of COVID-19 in California and the significant risk of widespread introduction and transmission of COVID-19 into the County.

**OC DASHBOARD**

**DRUG PREVENTION**

**DIAL 2-1-1**

Free, 24-hour Referral Helpline

**TRAVEL IMMUNIZATIONS**

**MY OC** Login | Register »

12. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 120175.5 (b) all governmental entities in the County shall take necessary measures within the governmental entity's control to ensure compliance with this Order and to disseminate this Order to venues or locations within the entity's jurisdiction where a large gathering may occur.
13. This Order and Guidance shall not supersede any conflicting or more restrictive orders issued by the State of California or Federal governments. If any portion of this Order or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid the remainder 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.  
As this is a rapidly evolving situation, this Order and Guidance may be revised and/or extended at any time.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

Date: March 18, 2020  
Dr. Nichole Quick  
Orange County Health Officer

**EMERGENCY REGULATIONS**

As Director of Emergency Services for the County of Orange, I am authorized to promulgate regulations for the protection of life and property pursuant to Government Code Section 8634 and Orange County Codified Ordinance Section 3-1-6(b) (1). The following shall be in effect for the duration of the Orange County Health Officer Order issued above which is incorporated in its entirety by reference:

The Orange County Health Officer Order shall be promulgated as a regulation for the protection of life and property.

Any person who violates or who refuses or willfully neglects to obey this regulation is subject to fine, imprisonment, or both. (Government Code section 8665.)

Date: March 18, 2020  
Frank Kim  
County Executive Officer County of Orange

## County Health Officer's Order Issued - 3/17/2020

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 101040, 120175, and 120175.5 (b), the Orange County Health Officer ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

Effective immediately and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2020, the following will be in effect in Orange County:

1. All public and private gatherings of any number of people, including at places of work, occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited. However, nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.
  - a. This prohibition applies to all professional, social, and community gatherings, regardless of their sponsor, that are not engaged in Essential Activities, as defined below. Gatherings that involve Essential Activities should only be conducted when they cannot be postponed or achieved without gathering, meaning that some other means of communication cannot be used to perform the Essential Activity. For gatherings involving Essential Activities, maintaining a six-foot separation of social distancing between persons, except family members, is recommended to the greatest extent possible.
  - b. "Essential Activities" include:
    - i. All services needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies and provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public.
    - ii. Healthcare operations (e.g. hospitals) and essential infrastructure;
    - iii. First responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, and law enforcement personnel.
    - iv. Grocery stores, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;
    - v. Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing;
    - vi. Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
    - vii. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
    - viii. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities;
    - ix. Banks and related financial institutions;

- x. Hardware stores;
- xi. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;
- xii. Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
- xiii. Educational institutions – including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities – for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that Social Distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible;
- xiv. Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers;
- xv. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out. Schools and other entities that typically provide free food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and takeaway basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site;
- xvi. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;
- xvii. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate;
- xviii. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;
- xix. Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers providing transportation services;
- xx. Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;
- xxi. Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
- xxii. Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities;
- xxiii. Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted. To the extent possible, childcare facilities must operate under the following mandatory conditions:
  - 1. Childcare must be carried out in stable groups.
  - 2. Children shall not change from one group to another.
  - 3. If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other.
  - 4. Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children.

c. "Social Distancing" is maintaining a six-foot separation from all persons except for family members.

- 2. All bars and other establishments that serve alcohol, and do not serve food, shall close consistent with guidance provided by the California Department of Public Health for Retail Food, Beverage, and Other Related Service Venues.
- 3. All restaurants and other business establishments that serve food shall close all on-site dining consistent with guidance provided by the California Department of Public Health for Retail Food, Beverage, and Other Related Service Venues. All food served shall be by delivery, or through pick-up or drive-thru. Social Distancing shall be required for persons picking up food on site.

a. "Social Distancing" is maintaining a six-foot separation from all persons except for family members.

- 4. A strong recommendation is made that all persons who are 65 years and older, or have a serious chronic medical condition (like heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes), or have a compromised immune system remain at home consistent with guidance provided by the California Department of Public Health on Self-Isolation for Older Adults and Those Who Have Elevated Risk.
- 5. A strong recommendation is made for persons exhibiting mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19 to self-isolate themselves in their place of residence unless seeking medical care.
- 6. All businesses shall enact Social Distancing, increased sanitation standards, and shall make every effort to use telecommuting for its workforce. All businesses shall suspend any policy or procedure requiring doctor verification for sick or other leave approval.

a. "Social Distancing" is maintaining a six-foot separation from all persons except for family members.

- 7. A strong recommendation is made that all residents are to heed any orders and guidance of state and local health officials related to COVID-19.
- 8. This Order is necessary to protect and preserve the public health from, and prevent, the increasing transmission of COVID-19 in California and the significant risk of widespread introduction and transmission of COVID-19 into the County.
- 9. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 120175.5 (b) all governmental entities in the County shall take necessary measures within the governmental entity's control to ensure compliance with this Order and to

disseminate this Order to venues or locations within the entity’s jurisdiction where a large gathering may occur.

10. Violation of this Order is subject to fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code section 120295.)

11. To the extent necessary, this Order may be enforced by the Sheriff or chiefs of police pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029.

As this is a rapidly evolving situation, this Order may be revised and/or extended at any time.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

Date: March 17, 2020  
Dr. Nichole Quick  
Orange County Health Officer

**EMERGENCY REGULATIONS**

As Director of Emergency Services for the County of Orange, I am authorized to promulgate regulations for the protection of life and property pursuant to Government Code Section 8634 and Orange County Codified Ordinance Section 3- I-6(b) (1). The following shall be in effect for the duration of the Orange County Health Officer Order issued above which is incorporated in its entirety by reference:

The Orange County Health Officer Order shall be promulgated as a regulation for the protection of life and property.

Any person who violates or who refuses or willfully neglects to obey this regulation is subject to fine, imprisonment, or both. (Government Code section 8665.)

Date: March 17, 2020  
Frank Kim  
County Executive Officer County of Orange

**Navigation**

- [OC Home](#)
- [About the County](#)
- [Departments](#)
- [Business](#)
- [How Do I](#)

**Quick Links**

- [Acceptable Use](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Contact the County](#)
- [Disclaimer](#)
- [Sitemap](#)

**Resources**

- [Chambers of Commerce](#)
- [Federal Government](#)
- [General Information](#)
- [Orange County Cities](#)
- [Related Government Agencies](#)
- [State Government](#)
- [Visitor Bureaus](#)

**Social Media and Applications**

County Directory Assistance  
855.886.5400

*Making Orange County a safe, healthy, and fulfilling place to live, work, and play, today and for generations to come, by providing outstanding, cost-effective regional public services.*