ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY QUARANTINE ORDER FOR COVID-19
DATE OF ORDER: JULY 9, 2020
EFFECTIVE UNTIL RESCINDED

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 Safety Code § 120275, et seq.)

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
SECTIONS 101040, 101085, 120175, 120215, 120220, and 120225
THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO HEALTH OFFICER ORDERS:

SUMMARY OF THE ORDER

1. California is in a State of Emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a substantial danger to the health of the public within the County of Mendocino. 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 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). This Order is intended to protect vulnerable members of the public from avoidable risk of serious illness or death resulting from exposure to COVID-19.

2. The age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the County of Mendocino (“County”) places 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.

3. To help slow COVID-19’s spread, protect vulnerable individuals, and prevent the healthcare system in the County of Mendocino from being overwhelmed, it is necessary for the Health Officer to require the self-quarantine of persons exposed to a person diagnosed with or likely to have COVID-19. Quarantine separates individuals who were exposed to COVID-19 from others, until it is determined that they are not at risk for spreading the disease.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
SECTIONS 101040, 101085, 120175, 120215, 120220, and 120225
THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO HEALTH OFFICER ORDERS:
All household members, intimate partners, caregivers and individuals who have been in close contact with a person diagnosed with or likely to have COVID-19, as defined in this Order must quarantine themselves. Persons quarantined are required to follow all instructions in this Order and the Public Health guidance documents referenced in this Order.

Violation of this Order is a crime, punishable by a fine of up to $10,000 and/or a year in jail. (Health & Safety Code §§ 120295 et seq.; Cal. Penal Code §§ 69 & 148)

Quarantine Requirements for Household Contacts, Intimate Partners, Close Contacts and Caregivers of Persons with COVID-19

A. Close contacts to persons with COVID-19 (i.e., “cases”) are defined as individuals who:
   a. Live in or have stayed at the case’s residence OR
   b. Are intimate sexual partners of the case, OR
   c. Provide or provided care to the case without wearing a mask, gown, and gloves OR
   d. Were within 6 feet of a case for a prolonged period of time (> 10 minutes or more).
      AND
   e. This contact occurred while the case was determined to be infectious. A case is infectious within 48 hours before that person’s symptoms began and until that person is no longer required to be isolated.

B. All individuals who know that they have been in close contact as a household member, an intimate partner, a caregiver outside of a healthcare setting, or other close contact, as defined above (or who have been identified as close contacts) are required to immediately take the following actions:

1. Stay in their home or another residence through 14 days from the last date that they were in contact with the person diagnosed with or likely to have COVID-19. Self-quarantine is required for the entirety of the 14-day incubation period because an individual is at high risk for developing and spreading COVID-19, if that individual has had close contact, as defined above, with a person who has:
   a) A positive lab test for the coronavirus (known as SARS-CoV-2) that causes COVID-19
   b) Signs and symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 (i.e., flu-like symptoms such as sore throat, coughing, shortness of breath, subjective fever (or a temperature of 100.0F/ 37.8C or greater), or sudden loss of sense of smell and/or taste), within 14 days of being in close contact with a person who had or was believed to have had COVID-19 OR
   c) A health care provider has informed the individual that they are likely to have COVID-19.
   Note: For those individuals who do not have a residence or are unable to return to
their previous residence, the place of quarantine will be determined by the County of Mendocino Emergency Operations Center by calling the EOC COVID-19 Clinician Hotline at (707) 472-2606 (M-F, 8am-5pm) / (707) 272-8035 (after hours).

2. Quarantined individuals may not leave their place of quarantine or enter any other public or private place except to receive necessary medical care for the entire 14-day incubation period, the typical time between exposure and when symptoms and signs of the disease may develop.


4. If a quarantined person becomes sick with fever, cough, or shortness of breath (even if their symptoms are very mild), they should seek medical care, and if indicated, seek coronavirus testing from their medical provider or County Public Health, and isolate themselves at home and away from other people and follow the “Home Isolation Instructions,” posted at https://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus/health-order and attached to this Order. This is because they are likely to have COVID-19 and if so, can spread it to vulnerable individuals.

5. The Health Officer also recommends, to the extent possible, that all quarantined individuals (who do not develop any symptoms), seek coronavirus testing from their medical provider or County Public Health, after the conclusion of their quarantine, preferably on Day 15, or very shortly thereafter.

6. Asymptomatic healthcare workers (defined as one who delivers care and services to the sick and ailing either directly as clinicians, such as physicians and nurses, or indirectly as aides, helpers, laboratory technicians, or medical waste handlers) who are close contacts of a case of COVID-19, but are not known to be infected, may return to work during the 14 day quarantine period if the facility (employing or engaging the worker) and the worker have been cooperative with County Public Health for contact tracing and case investigation, and upon the healthcare facility employing or contracting the healthcare worker informing County Public Health that all of the following conditions are met:
   a. The healthcare facility currently is experiencing crisis level shortages, as determined by the facility with reference to CDC Guidance, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/mitigating-staff-shortages.html, for the particular healthcare worker classification due to reaching surge capacity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
   b. In accordance with State CDPH Guidance to Employers on Responding to COVID-19 in the Workplace: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Workplace-Outbreak-Employer-Guidance.aspx:
      • the facility employing or engaging the worker has sufficient medical grade
masking and will ensure the worker will wear such masking (or facial covering in the event of a shortage of masking) for the duration of the 14 day period (except while eating and drinking);

• the facility has implemented all best practice infection prevention procedures, as determined by County Public Health, including, but not limited to: pre-screening to assess worker temperature and symptoms prior to starting work has been implemented, ideally before entering the facility; self-monitoring by worker for temperature and symptoms prior to starting work; worker is able to maintain a minimum of six feet of distance to the extent possible from other workers in the workplace; physical barriers are in place between fixed worker locations to supplement distancing to the extent possible; and cleaning and disinfection of all areas and shared equipment can be performed routinely in the workplace;

• the worker will immediately cease working with the public upon developing even mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19;

c. During the course of the 14 day period, the worker’s duties will not involve entering any congregate care facilities, such as skilled nursing facilities, homeless shelters, or the County jail;

d. The work cannot be done remotely;

e. The worker, in fact, returns to work.

f. Standards for Testing:

• Testing strategies for healthcare workers returning to work will depend on the healthcare facility’s protocols.

• As with any quarantine, testing on Day 15, or very shortly thereafter, is advisable to the extent possible.

7. Asymptomatic First Responders (including law enforcement, social workers responding to abuse or neglect of children, elders and dependent adults), Disaster Service Workers (as determined by the Incident Commander), Emergency Management Personnel, Emergency Dispatchers, and Court Personnel, who had an unprotected exposure to, or are a close contact of a case of COVID-19, but are not known to be infected, may only return to work during the 14 day quarantine period in the event County Public Health approves that the facility (employing or engaging the worker) and the worker have been cooperative with County Public Health for contact tracing and case investigation, and the facility certifies to, and receives approval from, County Public Health, that all of the following conditions have been met:

a. The facility (whether public, private or volunteer), employing or engaging the worker is experiencing “crisis level shortages”, such that the essential operations of the workplace would be compromised by quarantine of the worker because the facility is unable to accommodate 7 days or less without the quarantined worker on site OR “urgent level shortages” such that the facility is unable to accommodate between 8-14 days without the quarantined worker on site AND:

• the work cannot be performed remotely (e.g., from home), and there is an inability to obtain alternate staff whether through temporary help or mutual aid, to perform the same critical duties of the quarantined worker;

b. In accordance with State CDPH Guidance to Employers on Responding to COVID-19 in the Workplace (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Workplace-

- the facility employing or engaging the worker has sufficient medical grade masking and will ensure the worker will wear such masking (or facial covering in the event of a shortage of masking) for the duration of the 14 day period (except while eating and drinking);
- the facility has implemented all best practice infection prevention procedures, as determined by County Public Health, including, but not limited to: pre-screening to assess employee temperature and symptoms prior to starting work has been implemented, ideally before entering the facility; self-monitoring by worker for temperature and symptoms prior to starting work; worker is able to maintain a minimum of six feet of distance from other workers in the workplace; physical barriers are in place between fixed worker locations to supplement distancing; and cleaning and disinfection of all areas and shared equipment can be performed routinely in the workplace
- the worker will immediately cease working with the public upon developing even mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19;

8. In the event a known prior COVID-19 positive individual (who has completed isolation), is identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19, such individual would be required to quarantine on a case by case basis, as determined by Public Health. Currently, there is no data indicating that recovered COVID-19 cases are susceptible to reinfection sooner than 180 days.

The Mendocino County Health Officer may take additional action(s), which may include civil detention or requiring one to stay at a health facility or other location, to protect the public’s health if an individual who is subject to this Order violates or fails to comply with this Order. Violation of this Order is also a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, fine or both.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

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7.09.20

Dr. Noemi Doohan, MD, MPH
Health Officer, County of Mendocino