

County of Santa Clara
Public Health Department

Health Officer
976 Lenzen Avenue, 2nd Floor
San José, CA 95126
408.792.3798



**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
IMPOSING A COUNTYWIDE MORATORIUM ON
MASS GATHERINGS OF 1,000 OR MORE PERSONS
TO MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

DATE OF ORDER: MARCH 9, 2020

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a crime punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code § 120295; County Ordinance Code § A1-28.)

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, AND SANTA CLARA COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE SECTION A18-33, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA ("HEALTH OFFICER") ORDERS:

1. Effective as of 12:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2020, public or private mass gatherings, defined below, are hereby prohibited in Santa Clara County ("County").
2. This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 within the County, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, as well as 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 places it at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk.
3. This Order will reduce the likelihood that many individuals will be exposed to COVID-19 at a single event, and will thereby slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. By reducing the spread of COVID-19, this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the County.
4. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, the February 3, 2020 Proclamation by the Director of Emergency Services Declaring the Existence of a Local

Emergency in the County, the February 3, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency Regarding Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) issued by the Health Officer, the February 10, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara Ratifying and Extending the Declaration of a Local Health Emergency, and the February 10, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara Ratifying and Extending the Proclamation of a Local Emergency.

5. This Order is issued in light of the existence of 43 cases of COVID-19 (including one death) in the County, as of the morning of March 9, 2020, including a significant and increasing number of assumed cases of community transmission. Widespread testing for COVID-19 is not yet available, but is expected to increase in the coming days; this moratorium is necessary to slow the rate of spread while further data becomes available.
6. This Order is issued to prevent circumstances often present in mass gatherings that may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, such as: (a) the increased likelihood that mass gatherings will attract people from a broad geographic area; (b) the prolonged time period in which large numbers of people are in close proximity; (c) the difficulty in tracing exposure when large numbers of people attend a single event; and (d) the inability to ensure that attendees follow adequate hygienic practices.
7. This Order comes after the release of substantial guidance from the County Health Officer, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other public health officials throughout the United States and around the world. This prior guidance included recommendations to cancel mass gatherings and includes ongoing recommendations that large gatherings involving fewer than 1,000 persons be canceled as well. The Health Officer will continue to assess the quickly evolving situation and may modify or extend this Order, or issue additional Orders, related to COVID-19.
8. Definitions.
 - a. For the purposes of this Order, a “mass gathering” is any event or convening that brings together one thousand (1,000) or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria, theater, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.
 - b. For the purpose of clarity, a “mass gathering” does not include normal operations at airports, shopping malls and centers, or other spaces where 1,000 or more persons may be in transit. It also does not include typical office environments or retail or grocery stores where large numbers of people are present, but it is unusual for them to be within arm’s length of one another.
 - c. To the extent the Sheriff or any chief of police has any questions regarding the definition of a “mass gathering” under this Order, the Health Officer hereby delegates authority to the County Counsel to answer such questions in writing.

Order of the County Health Officer
Re: Moratorium on Mass Gatherings of
1,000 or More Persons

9. Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order.
10. This Order shall become effective at 12:00 a.m. on March 11, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2020, or until it is earlier rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer or by the State Public Health Officer.
11. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County Government Center at 70 W. Hedding Street, San José CA 95110; (2) posted on the County Public Health Department website (sccphd.org); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Sara H. Cody, M.D.
Health Officer of the County of Santa Clara

Dated: 3/9/2020

Approved as to form and legality:



James R. Williams
County Counsel

Dated: 3/9/2020

Order of the County Health Officer
Re: Moratorium on Mass Gatherings of
1,000 or More Persons