

# Amador County Public Health Department

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**Date of Order: MARCH 12, 2020**

## **ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF AMADOR IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON NON-ESSENTIAL GATHERINGS OF 250 OR MORE AND PLACING OTHER LIMITATIONS ON SMALLER NON-ESSENTIAL GATHERINGS**

**SUMMARY:** In order to decrease the transmission of COVID-19 (corona virus), the Amador County Health Officer issues this order prohibiting non-essential gatherings of 250 or more people. The order also prohibits non-essential gatherings of fewer than 250 people that do not allow social distancing of six feet per person and non-essential gatherings of 10 or more persons who are at higher risk of contagion (persons 60 years of age or older or with health conditions or who are immune compromised).

**Please read this ORDER carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this ORDER constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code §§ 120295, *et seq.*)**

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE AMADOR COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER ORDERS:

**The following orders apply within the County of Amador and are effective immediately and until midnight on March 31, 2020 (these orders are subject to reevaluation and extension):**

**1. All non-essential large gatherings are prohibited.**

A “gathering” is any event or convening that brings together people in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria, or any other indoor or outdoor space.

“Large gathering” means a gathering of 250 people or more.

“Non-essential” means the activity is not essential and could be postponed or achieved without gathering, meaning that some other means of communication could be used to conduct the essential function. The intent of this order is to prevent people from physically coming together

unnecessarily, where people who have the infection can easily spread it to others. This order does not apply to activities such as attendance at regular school classes, work, or essential services. Certain activities are essential to the functioning of the County and must continue. Hence, this order does not apply to essential public transportation, airport travel, or shopping.

**2. All non-essential small gatherings held in venues that do not allow social distancing of six feet per person are prohibited.**

“Small gathering” means a gathering of fewer than 250 people.

Under this order, the venue must be spacious enough to allow for six feet spacing between people. Additionally, the gathering should not involve regular interaction that compromises the spacing rule.

**3. All non-essential gatherings of 10 or more high risk individuals are prohibited.**

“High risk individuals” means persons 60 years of age or older; persons with health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease, and weakened immune systems; and women who are pregnant or were pregnant in the last two weeks.

This **ORDER** is issued based on guidelines provided by the California Department of Public Health. Those guidelines (Attachment 1) are incorporated herein and are intended to provide further explanation and guidance. 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.

This **ORDER** is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 within the State of California, 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 risk symptoms and asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk.

This **ORDER** will reduce the likelihood that many individuals will be exposed to COVID-19 at a single event, and 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.

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.

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In addition to the **ORDER**, a list of Public Health Recommendations is attached hereto as "Attachment 2."

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**



Rita H. Kerr, M.D.  
Health Officer of the County of Amador

Date: 3/12/2020

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



Gregory Gillott  
County Counsel for the County of Amador

Date: 3/12/2020

# ATTACHMENT 1



**To protect public health and slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19, gatherings as described below should be postponed or canceled across the state of California for at least the remainder of the month of March.**

The California Department of Public Health finds the following:

- Large gatherings that include 250 people or more should be postponed or canceled.
  - This includes gatherings such as concerts, conferences, and professional, college, and school sporting events.
- Smaller gatherings held in venues that do not allow social distancing of six feet per person should be postponed or canceled.
  - This includes gatherings in crowded auditoriums, rooms or other venues.
- Gatherings of individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people.
  - This includes gatherings such as those at retirement facilities, assisted living facilities, developmental homes, and support groups for people with health conditions.
- A “gathering” is any event or convening that brings together people in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria, or any other indoor or outdoor space.

This applies to all non-essential professional, social, and community gatherings regardless of their sponsor. Gatherings that do not meet the aforementioned criteria should only be conducted when they are essential—that is, if the activity is essential and could not be postponed or achieved without gathering, meaning that some other means of communication could not be used to conduct the essential function.

#### **What will this achieve?**

The timely implementation of aggressive strategies that create social distance and those that reduce close contact of people not regularly together, including limiting gatherings, has proven effective in prior pandemics at delaying rates of transmission and reducing illness and death.

By decreasing the prevalence of disease across California we will:

- Reduce the number of Californians who contract COVID-19 before an effective treatment or vaccine is available.
- Protect those most likely to experience severe symptoms, such as older Californians and those with underlying chronic conditions.
- Preserve and protect our health care delivery system, including our health care workforce, so they can care for the least healthy individuals in the community for any medical condition, not just COVID-19.
- Minimize the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 over the long run.

### **How long will these limitations apply?**

This guidance will remain in place at least through the month of March. As with all guidance that relates to COVID-19 response, authorities will revisit this guidance on a regular basis to evaluate the continued public health need for it and to evaluate if any elements need to be changed. To stay informed, continue to monitor this link:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx>

### **What is Social Distancing and how is it achieved?**

Social distancing is a practice recommended by public health officials to stop or slow down the spread of contagious diseases. It requires the creation of physical space between individuals who may spread certain infectious diseases. The key is to minimize the number of gatherings as much as possible and to achieve space between individuals when events or activities cannot be modified, postponed, or canceled.

Although the Department expects most events with more than 250 attendees to be postponed or canceled, we emphasize that the venue space does matter. Achieving space between individuals of approximately six feet is advisable. Additionally, there is a particular focus on creating space between individuals who have come together on a one-time or rare basis and who have very different travel patterns such as those coming from multiple countries, states or counties.

### **What can be done to a make a gathering safer if it is essential or small?**

- Stagger activities.
- Add frequency of an event to spread out attendance, e.g. hold more, smaller gatherings.
- Add distance between where individuals sit or stand around tables.
- Add additional hand washing stations and restrooms.
- Limit the number of people in lines.
- Avoid direct physical contact, such as hand-shaking, holding hands, and hugging.
- Extend hours to allow for staggering of attendance or participation.
- Use phones, videos or video conferencing to reduce the need for close interactions.
- Consider ways to encourage anyone with fever and respiratory symptoms to stay home when sick, such as
  - Offering refunds or support reselling of tickets for persons who become ill.
  - Placing messages on websites, tickets, and venue entrances reminding people to protect one another by staying home if sick.

### **Examples of Essential Events this Does Not Apply To**

The goal of this recommendation is to prevent people physically coming together unnecessarily, where people who have the infection can easily spread it to others. This guidance does not apply to activities such as attendance at regular school classes, work, or essential services.

Please see the [guidance for schools](#) document for additional information.

Certain activities are essential to the functioning of our state and must continue. Hence, this does not apply to essential public transportation, airport travel, or shopping at a store or mall. Other [specific guidance](#) can be found on the CDPH website to help people take actions that can protect them in those settings.

This does not apply to congregate living situations, including dormitories and homeless encampments. For more information on what can be done to protect homeless individuals, please see the [Guidance for Homeless Assistance Providers on Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(PDF\)](#).

# ATTACHMENT 2



## ATTACHMENT 2

### COUNTY OF AMADOR PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. Vulnerable Populations: Limit Outings

Vulnerable populations include people who are 60 years old and older; people with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease, and weakened immune systems; and women who are pregnant or were pregnant in the last two weeks.

#### 2. Workplace and Businesses: Minimize Exposure

- Suspend non-essential employee travel.
- Where feasible, minimize the number of employees working within arm's length of one another, including minimizing or canceling large in-person meetings and conferences.
- Urge employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.
- Do not require a doctor's note for employees who are sick.
- When possible, replace in-person meetings with teleconference or web-based meetings.
- Some people need to be at work to provide essential services of great benefit to the community. They can take steps in their workplace to minimize risk.

#### 3. Attending Events: Take Precautions and Do Not Attend If Sick

For non-prohibited events:

- Do not attend if sick.
- (For event-holders): Have hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers, and tissues available. Frequently clean high touch service areas. Find ways to create physical space to minimize close contact as much as possible.
- (For attendees): Wash hands frequently and avoid shaking hands, hugs, or other contact.

#### 4. Schools: Safety First

- If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at a school, Public Health will work with the school and the district to determine the best measures including potential school closure.

- Do not go to school if sick.
- If you have a child with chronic health conditions, consult your doctor about school attendance.
- Equip all schools and classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
- Recommend rescheduling or cancelling medium to large events that are not essential.
- Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
- Schools should develop a plan for citywide school closures, and families should prepare for potential closures.

5. Transit: Cleaning and Protection

- Increase cleaning of vehicles and high touch surface areas.
- Provide hand washing/hand sanitizers and tissues in stations and on vehicles.

6. Health Care Settings: Avoid as Possible, Protect the Vulnerable

- Long term care facilities must have a COVID-19 plan in accordance with Public Health guidelines.
- Long term care facilities must screen all staff and visitors for illness and turn away those with symptoms.
- If you are ill, call your health care provider ahead of time, and you may be able to be served by phone.
- Do not visit emergency rooms unless it is essential.
- Visitors should not go to nursing homes or long-term care facilities unless absolutely essential.

7. Everyone: Do your part

The best way for all to reduce their risk of getting sick, as with seasonal colds or the flu, still applies to prevent COVID-19:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Try alternatives to shaking hands, like an elbow bump or wave.
- If you have recently returned from a country, state, or region with ongoing COVID-19 infections, monitor your health and follow the instructions of public health officials.
- There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick.

You can also prepare for the possible disruption caused by an outbreak. Preparedness actions include:

- Make sure you have a supply of all essential medications for your family.
- Prepare a child care plan if you or a care giver are sick.
- Make arrangements about how your family would manage a school closure.
- Plan for how you can care for a sick family member without getting sick yourself.
- Take care of each other and check in by phone with friends, family, and neighbors who are vulnerable to serious illness or death if they get COVID-19.
- Keep common spaces clean to help maintain a healthy environment for you and others. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned regularly with disinfecting sprays, wipes, or common household cleaning products.