

HEALTH OFFICER ORDER FOR THE CONTROL OF COVID-19

Public Health Emergency Isolation Order

Date Order Issued: March 25, 2020

This Order is in effect until rescinded in writing by the Health Officer.

SUMMARY OF THE ORDER

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 Los Angeles. COVID-19 can easily spread between people who are in close contact with one another. Everyone is at risk for becoming ill with COVID-19, but some people are more vulnerable to serious illness, including pneumonia and organ failure, or death, due to their age, physical state, and/or health status. Currently, there is no vaccine available to protect against COVID-19 and no specific treatment for its symptoms.

In order to help slow COVID-19's spread, protect vulnerable individuals, and prevent the healthcare system in the Los Angeles County from being overwhelmed, it is necessary for the County of Los Angeles Health Officer ("Health Officer") to require the self-isolation of persons diagnosed with or likely to have COVID-19.

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

All individuals who have been diagnosed with or who are likely to have COVID-19 must isolate themselves. These persons are required to follow all instructions in this Order and the Public Health guidance documents referenced in this Order.

Isolation Requirements for Individuals Diagnosed with or Likely to have COVID-19

All individuals who have been diagnosed with or are likely to have COVID-19 must immediately take the following actions:

- **Isolate themselves in their home or another residence until: (a) at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without use of fever-reducing medications and improvement of respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND (b) at least 7 days since symptoms first appeared, whichever is later.** Until this time, they may not leave their place of isolation or enter any other public or private place, except to receive necessary medical care. Individuals who need assistance meeting their essential needs, such as obtaining food or receiving necessary medication, can call 2-1-1 for assistance.
- **Carefully review and closely follow all requirements listed in the "Home Isolation Instructions for People with Coronavirus-2019 (COVID-19) Infection,"** which is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

- **Tell others who live in their residence, intimate partner(s), their caregiver(s), and other persons who were in close contact with them while they were symptomatic that they need to quarantine themselves. Refer them to the “Home Quarantine Guidance for Close Contacts to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)” document, which is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).** This document describes steps that household contacts, intimate partners, caregivers, and other close contacts must take to prevent spread of COVID-19. This is necessary because close contacts have likely been exposed to COVID-19 and, if infected, can easily spread COVID-19 to others, even if they have only mild symptoms.

Individuals are required to isolate themselves because they have or are likely to have COVID-19.

Self-isolation is immediately required if a person meets one or more of the following factors:

- a) A positive lab test for COVID-19
- b) Signs and symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 within 14 days of being in close contact with a person who had or was believed to have had COVID-19 **OR**
- c) A physician has informed the individual that they are likely to have COVID-19.

These persons are required to self-isolate because a person infected with or likely to have COVID-19 can easily spread the virus to others. Isolation separates these ill individuals from others to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This Order protects everyone, including people who are high risk for serious illness, such as older adults and people with weakened immune systems.

Isolated individuals must isolate themselves in a residence and follow all directions in this Order until they are no longer at risk for spreading COVID-19 based upon the following criteria:

- a) At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of both fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement of cough, shortness of breath, and other symptoms **AND**
- b) At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, whichever is later.

The 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. (Health and Safety Code §120295; Los Angeles County Code §11.02.080.)

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Muntty Davis, MD, MPH
Health Officer, County of Los Angeles

Date: MARCH 25, 2020