

STAY WELL AT HOME

ORDER OF THE VENTURA COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

ORDER PROHIBITING ALL GATHERINGS, ADDING TO THE LIST OF ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES, AND REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS

DATE OF ORDER: APRIL 9, 2020

Please read this Order carefully. This Order supplements the Health Officer's Orders dated March 17, 20 and 31, 2020. All prior Orders issued by the Health Officer remain in effect except where inconsistent with the provisions of this Order, in which case the provisions of this Order shall apply.

Pursuant to Health and Safety code section 120295 et seq., violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment or both.

PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 101040, 101085 AND 120175 OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF VENTURA COUNTY HEREBY ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. **Intent.** The intent of this Order is to ensure that the maximum number of people stay in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible to slow the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the delivery of critical healthcare services to those in need. All provisions of this Order must be interpreted to effectuate this intent.
2. **Summary of this Order.** This Order supplements and amends existing orders by, among other things: (a) prohibiting all gatherings, no matter the size, outside of places of residences with limited exceptions; (b) adding certain businesses to the list of essential businesses; (c) requiring essential businesses to adopt and implement social distancing protocols; (d) providing guidance for hospital holding units and long-term care facilities; and (e) declaring that violations of Health Officer Orders constitute a nuisance.
3. **All Gatherings prohibited.** Notwithstanding any other Order, all public and private gatherings of two or more persons occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, except for limited purposes expressly permitted in this Order. This section supersedes and replaces Section 5 of the March 20, 2020, Order.
 - a. "Gathering" means and is defined as any event or convening that brings together two or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time, including, but not limited to, an auditorium, stadium, golf course, arena, theater, church, casino, conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria, drive-in theater, parking lot, or any other indoor or outdoor space used for non-essential purposes, including, but not limited to, movies, church services, swap meets or

similar purposes.

b. Nothing in this section prohibits members of a single household or living unit from engaging in Essential Travel or Essential Activities together.

c. Nothing in this section prohibits an event or convening that brings together two or more people as necessary to operate an Essential Business or to perform Essential Governmental Functions or Services.

d. Gatherings of 10 or fewer persons are permitted at graveside funeral services.

e. Staff of organizations or associations, including faith-based organizations, may gather in a single space for the sole purpose of preparing and facilitating live-stream or other virtual communications with their members, including worship services, provided that the number of such staff is the fewest necessary to prepare and facilitate those communications, but in no event in excess of seven persons.

4. Additions to List of Essential Businesses. The following subsections are added to the list of essential businesses set forth in section 7, subpart (e) of the March 20, 2020, Order:

(xxiv) Bicycle repair and supply shops. Bicycle shops may engage in the sale of bicycles on-line only and provided that all bicycles are delivered to a place of residence or Essential Business.

(xxv) Service providers that enable residential real estate transactions (including rentals, leases and home sales), including, but not limited to, real estate agents, escrow agents, notaries, and title companies, provided that appointments and other residential viewings must only occur virtually or, if virtual viewing is not feasible, by appointment with no more than two visitors at a time, both whom must reside within the same household or living unit, and one individual showing the unit (except in-person visits are not allowed when the occupant is present in the residence).

(xxvi) Automotive dealerships may engage in the purchase and sale of automobiles (including cars, trucks, motorcycles and motorized scooters) on-line only and provided that all vehicles are delivered to a place of residence or Essential Business.

5. All Essential Businesses must have Social Distancing Protocol. All Essential Businesses must prepare and post by no later than April 12, 2020, a "Social Distancing Protocol" for each of their facilities in the County frequented by the public or employees. The Social Distancing Protocol must be posted at or near the entrance of the relevant facility and shall be easily viewable by the public and employees. A copy of the Social Distancing Protocol must also be provided to each employee performing work at the facility. All Essential Businesses shall implement the Social Distancing Protocol and provide evidence of its implementation to any authority enforcing this Order upon demand. Completion and posting of the form attached hereto as Appendix A: Social Distancing Protocol will be compliant with this Order. The

Social Distancing Protocol must explain how the business is achieving the following, as applicable:

- a. Limiting the number of persons who can enter into the facility and work areas at any one time to ensure that persons in the facility and work areas can easily maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another at all times, except as required to complete the Essential Business activity;
- b. Where lines may form at a facility, marking increments of six feet, at a minimum, establishing where individuals must stand to maintain adequate social distancing;
- c. Providing hand sanitizer, soap and water, or other effective disinfectant at or near the entrance of the facility and in other appropriate areas for use by the public and employees and in locations where there is high-frequency employee interaction with the public (e.g., cashiers);
- d. Providing for contactless payment systems or, if not feasible to do so, providing for disinfecting all payment portals, pens and styluses after each use;
- e. Regularly cleaning and disinfecting other high-touch surfaces;
- f. Posting a sign at the entrance of the facility and work area informing the public and employees that they should avoid entering the facility if they have a cough or fever; maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another; sneeze and cough into their elbow; and not shake hands or engage in unnecessary physical contact; and
- g. Any additional social distancing measures being implemented.

6. Hospitals and Long-Term Care Facilities. The Health Officer recognizes the authority of the guidance documents “Hospital Holding Unit Guidance for COVID-19” and “Long-Term Care Facility Guidance for Preventing and Managing COVID-19” (the current versions of which are available at www.vcemergency.com) and strongly advises all hospitals and Long-Term Care Facilities (as that term is defined in section 7.a of the March 31, 2020, Order) to comply with the guidance.

7. Violation may constitute unfair competition. Any person that, after notice, operates, manages, maintains or occupies, or continues to operate, manage, maintain or occupy, any business in violation of this Order, in addition or in the alternative to any other civil and criminal penalties allowed by law, be subject to liability under the Unfair Competition Law (chapter 5 of part 2 of division 7 of the Business and Professions Code, commencing at section 17200) and subject to civil penalties and other relief as provided therein, for each act or practice in violation of the Orders, or any of them.

8. Compliance. The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes a threat to public health and a public nuisance per se. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 101040 and 120175, Civil Code section 3494 and Code of Civil Procedure section 731, the Health Officer

or any other authorized County official may enforce any violation of this Order and abate the public nuisance by obtaining injunctive relief from a court of competent jurisdiction. In addition, 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.

9. Effective date and time. This Order shall become effective and operative at 11:59 p.m. on April 9, 2020, and will continue to be in effect until 11:59 p.m. on April 19, 2020, or until it is extended, rescinded, superseded or amended in writing by the Health Officer.

10. Continuing assessment. The Health Officer will continue to assess the quickly evolving situation regarding the spread of COVID-19, may issue additional orders related to COVID-19 and will review this Order prior to its expiration.

11. Copies of Order. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County of Ventura Public Health Office, 2240 East Gonzalez Road, Suite 210, Oxnard, California, 93036; (2) posted on the County Public Health Department website (available at www.vchca.org/ph); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

12. Severability. If any provision of this Order, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, 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.

IT IS SO ORDERED



Robert Levin, M.D.
Ventura County Health Officer

Dated: April 9, 2020

Attachment: Appendix A: Social Distancing Protocol