

HEALTH OFFICER ORDER FOR THE CONTROL OF COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Isolation Order

Revised Order Issued: May 1, 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This Order is in effect until rescinded in writing by the Health Officer.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 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.

This Order supersedes the April 1, 2020 Public Health Emergency Isolation Order.

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, as defined below, must immediately isolate themselves and take the following actions:

1. Isolate themselves in their home or another residence until they are no longer at risk for spreading COVID-19, based on the following criteria:
 - a) Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms must isolate themselves until: (i) at least 3 days (72 hours) after they have recovered, meaning that their fever has gone without use of fever-reducing medications and their respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved, AND (ii) at least 10 days from when their symptoms first appeared.
 - b) Individuals without COVID-19 symptoms, who had a positive COVID-19 lab test, must isolate themselves for 10 days from the date of the positive lab test.

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.

A person is considered to be diagnosed with or likely to have COVID-19, if the person has:

- a) Received a positive lab test for COVID-19, AND/OR
- b) Been informed by a physician that they are likely to have COVID-19, AND/OR
- c) Signs and symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 (i.e., fever, cough, shortness of breath or trouble breathing).

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. It protects everyone, including people who are high risk for serious illness, such as older adults and people with weakened immune systems.

2. **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](#), [Spanish](#), and [other languages](#).**
3. **Notify all of their close contacts, as defined below, that those persons need to self-quarantine for 14 days after their last contact with them.**

The term “close contact” applies to all household members, intimate contacts, caregivers outside of a healthcare setting, and all individuals with any of the following exposures to a person diagnosed with or likely to have COVID-19 (“infected person”) while they were infectious*:

- a) Presence within 6 feet of an infected person for more than 10 minutes
- b) Unprotected contact with an infected person’s body fluids and/or secretions, for example, being coughed or sneezed on, sharing utensils or saliva, or providing care without wearing appropriate protective equipment.

* A person diagnosed with or likely to have COVID-19 is considered infectious from 48 hours before their symptoms first appeared (or from the date of their positive lab test if they did not have symptoms), until that person is no longer required to be isolated (as described in [“Home Isolation Instructions for People with COVID-19”](#)).

Refer the contacts to the “Home Quarantine Guidance for Close Contacts to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)” document, which is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [other languages](#). 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 it to others, even if they have only mild symptoms.

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:



Muntu Davis, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer, County of Los Angeles

May 1, 2020
Date