



**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER No. C19-02**

DATE ORDER ISSUED: March 7, 2020

**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 HEALTH OFFICER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:**

- 1. Effective as of the date of this Order, and for the limited two-week duration as specified in Section 7 below, no City-Owned Facility (as defined in Section 4 below) shall permit any Non-Essential Group Event (as defined in Section 5 below) from occurring onsite. Such City-Owned Facilities may otherwise remain open for business during the duration of this Order.**
- 2. This Order is issued on the basis of scientific evidence and 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 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the City and County of San Francisco (the “City”) places them at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although some individuals who contract COVID-19 do not have severe symptoms, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at risk, especially when attending Non-Essential Group Events. 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 25, 2020 Proclamation by the Mayor Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency issued by Mayor London Breed, and the March 6, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency Regarding Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) issued by the Health Officer.**
- 3. This Order focuses on City-Owned Facilities to support the City’s efforts to implement the social distancing recommendations of the Department of Public Health (a copy of which is attached to this Order), to reduce the occasions when groups of people come together for Non-Essential Group Events, and to serve as a model for other owners and operators of facilities where similar events may be held in the City and other affected jurisdictions. This is a preliminary step by the Health Officer to require compliance at certain City-Owned Facilities, following the Health Officer’s issuance of the City-wide advisory on March 6, 2020, which includes a recommendation to cancel or postpone large gatherings and non-essential events. The Health Officer will continue to assess the quickly-evolving situation and may from time to time expand or revise this Order, or issue additional Orders, covering other venues and events.**



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4. For purposes of this Order, the term “City-Owned Facility” means only the following buildings that are owned by the City:
  - a. City Hall (1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco 94102);
  - b. Moscone Center (747 Howard St, San Francisco, CA 94103) and all associated buildings;
  - c. Bill Graham Civic Auditorium (99 Grove Street, San Francisco 94102);
  - d. New Conservatory Theatre (25 Van Ness Avenue, Basement suite, San Francisco 94102);
  - e. War Memorial & Performing Arts Center (Davies Hall, Opera House, and Veterans Building; 201 - 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 94102);
  - f. The Palace of Fine Arts Theatre (3601 Lyon St, San Francisco, CA 94123) (only the main theatre at this time);
  - g. The San Francisco Public Library (100 Larkin St, San Francisco, CA 94102);
  - h. Pier 27 (The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA); and
  - i. Pier 35 (The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA).
  
5. For purposes of this Order, the term “Non-Essential Group Event” means any congregation of 50 or more people for any social, cultural, entertainment, or other special event or other non-essential purpose where people are not separated by physical space of at least four feet (which is slightly longer than an average arm’s length). These events include, without limitation, the following: (a) any theatre space with fixed seating or other setup where chairs are placed adjacent to each other in rows; (b) any space where event attendees stand in close proximity to each other, such as a concert or other performance that includes “standing room only” sections; or (c) an admission or concession line/queue. This Order does not prohibit the usual operation of the identified City-Owned Facilities for the public’s business, including, but not limited to, events for government purposes, such as public meetings of the Board of Supervisors, committees of the Board of Supervisors, and of each City board and commission or advisory body or their respective committees or working groups. But, for such public meetings, the official in charge of operating such City-Owned Facility shall (1) ensure signs are posted advising attendees of the guidance of the Department of Public Health regarding social distancing and (2) ensure that (i) the building has hand washing capabilities, (ii) hand sanitizer and tissues are available during the meeting, and (iii) high-touch surface areas like door handles, countertops, tables, and handrails in the meeting area are frequently cleaned.
  
6. This Order does not restrict in any way first responder access to any City-Owned Facility during an emergency. Further, this Order does not restrict state or federal officers, investigators, or medical or law enforcement personnel from carrying out their lawful duties at any City-Owned Facility.



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7. **This Order shall be effective until 11:59 p.m. on March 20, 2020, or until it is earlier rescinded, superseded, or amended by the Health Officer or by the State Public Health Officer, in writing.**
  
8. **Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at main entrances at each City-Owned Facility before and during events or posted on-site as appropriate; (2) posted on the City Administrator's website (sfgsa.org) and the Department of Public Health website (sfdph.org); (3) provided by email and either overnight or personal service with a proof of service to any non-City entity or organization that, by contract or lease, operates in a City-Owned Facility; and (4) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.**

A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF ANY PART OF THIS ORDER MAY CONTACT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY FACILITY OR BUILDING REGARDING WHICH THEY HAVE A QUESTION. PLEASE REFER TO THE CITY'S WEBSITE OR THE FACILITY'S WEBSITE FOR CONTACT INFORMATION.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tomás Aragón".

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Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH,  
Health Officer of the  
City and County of San Francisco

Date: March 7, 2020



**PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS AS OF MARCH 6, 2020**

**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.
- For vulnerable populations, don't go to gatherings (of about 50 people or more) unless it is essential. If you can telecommute, you should. Avoid people who are sick.

**2) Workplace and Businesses: Minimize Exposure**

- Suspend nonessential employee travel.
- 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.
- Consider use of telecommuting options.
- 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) Large Gatherings: Cancel Non-essential Events**

- Recommend cancelling or postponing large gatherings, such as concerts, sporting events, conventions or large community events.
- Do not attend any events or gatherings if sick.
- For events that aren't cancelled, we recommend:
  - Having hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers and tissues available.
  - Frequently cleaning high touch surface areas like counter tops and hand rails.
  - Finding ways to create physical space to minimize close contact as much as possible.

**4) Schools: Safety First**

- If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at a school, DPH 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.



**PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS AS OF MARCH 6, 2020**

**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 DPH guidelines.
- Long term care facilities must screen all staff and visitors for illness and turn away those with symptoms.
- The general public should avoid going to medical settings such as hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities, even if you are not ill.
- 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.

**7) Everyone: Do your part**

The best way for all San Franciscans 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:

- Prepare to work from home if that is possible for your job, and your employer.
- 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 will 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 that 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.

Keep up to date at [www.sfdph.org](http://www.sfdph.org), by calling 311, and by signing up for the City's new alert service for official updates: text COVID19SF to 888-777.