



Tuolumne County Health and Human Services Agency

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Director

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Date: May 19, 2020

To: Health Care Providers, Employers, and Residents Within Tuolumne County

From: Dr. Liza M. Ortiz, Tuolumne County Interim Health Officer

Subject: Updated Health Officer's Order to Screen for Febrile Respiratory Illness and for Ill Residents to Isolate

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Sections 101040, 120175, and 120175.5(b) the Health Officer of the County of Tuolumne orders as follows:

The order is issued as a result of the World Health Organizations declaration of the worldwide pandemic of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. COVID-19 is contained in droplets that can be sneezed, coughed, or exhaled into the air by infected individuals.

As of today, there are over 4.7 million cases and over 315,822 deaths worldwide. In California, there are 81,836 confirmed cases and 3,384 deaths. We can expect that the number of cases will increase significantly should action not being taken to decrease the spread of the disease.

There currently is no available treatment, however, reduced transmission of the disease can be done through community mitigation measures that decrease the likelihood of being exposed to the droplets of an infected person. These measures include limiting large scale events and mass gatherings and practicing social distancing. Aggressive containment operations including isolating suspect cases and persons under investigation and quarantining their contacts can limit the spread of the disease, reduce the impacts of the disease on society, and avoid more stringent measures that would cause further detriment to civil society.

COVID-19 testing in Tuolumne County is being conducted at the discretion of health care providers in the community, based on their clinical assessment and the current recommended guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) criteria. Any positive test result shall be reported to the Public Health Department.

Effective on May 19, 2020, the following will be in effect for Tuolumne County.

As Tuolumne County Health Officer, I do hereby order:

1. All Health Care Providers shall:

- a. Daily report to the Tuolumne County Public Health Department all patients seen in their practice with a febrile respiratory illness

- b. Provide patient information that will include demographic information, including age, as well as residential address and clinical status, indicate whether rapid point of care testing was performed and their results, indicate if COVID-19 testing was done. Please use the attached Excel spreadsheet if possible and e-mail to health@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov
- c. Direct the patient, if no exclusionary diagnosis is found, to isolate him/herself for ten days after onset of symptoms or three days after cessation of fever without the use of fever- reducing medications
- d. Follow the additional guidance provided by CDC at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>.

2. All Employers shall:

- a. Daily, at the start of business, screen all employees for febrile respiratory illness using the attached screening tool entitled COVID-19 Screening Checklist for Employers.
- b. Retain all screening forms for 14 days after completion and have readily available upon request from the Public Health Department.
- c. Exclude from work all employees that report symptoms of febrile respiratory illness for ten days from the day that they are identified as having symptoms.
- d. Direct employees excluded from work to isolate at home and notify their healthcare provider. If an employer has questions regarding work exclusion, they are asked to call the public health call center at 209-533-7440.
- e. Report to public health any worker who has confirmed COVID-19 to 209-533-7440. Instructions on reporting are attached to this order.

3. All Residents shall:

- a. Self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- b. Isolate themselves for ten days after onset of signs and symptoms, and only leave their place of residence to seek further medical attention
- c. Follow additional guidance provided by CDC at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>
- d. All close contacts of anyone isolated under this order will be placed into 14-day quarantine.

For the purpose of this order:

- Febrile is defined as “related to fever.”
- Febrile respiratory illness is defined as “a new or worsening episode of either cough or shortness of breath, presenting with fever (temperature 38 degrees C or 100.4 degrees F or higher) or chills in the previous 24 hours.”
- Isolation is defined as “separation of sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.”
- Quarantine is defined as “separation and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.”
- Close contact is defined as “anyone who has been within six feet for a period of ten minutes or longer of a person placed in isolation.”
- Social distancing is defined as “maintain a six-foot separation from all persons except for family members.”
- Symptoms of COVID-19:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Or at least two of the following
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) may recommend further guidance.

This Order shall be effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notice. This Order replaces the previous Febrile Respiratory Screening Order dated May 13, 2020.

I, as Health Officer for the County of Tuolumne, encourage voluntary compliance with this Health Officer's Order. However, violation of this order is subject to fine, imprisonments or both (California Health and Safety Code Section 120295.)

I ask that anyone who wishes to discuss this, contact the Public Health Department at (209) 533-7401.



Liza M. Ortiz, MD, MPH
Health Officer

5/19/2020
Date