



## **ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT MASS QUARANTINE ORDER**

DATE OF ORDER: August 18, 2020

**Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code, § 120295.)**

### **SUMMARY OF THE ORDER**

**California is in a State of Emergency, because of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.** The spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, is a substantial danger to the residents of the County of Humboldt (“County”). COVID-19 can easily spread between people who are in close contact with one another. This order is based on current scientific evidence and best practices. Exposure to COVID-19 can have serious health complications, including death in people who are vulnerable. There is evidence of transmission risk from infected persons, before the onset of symptoms. This means that people who contract COVID-19, whether they show symptoms or not; may place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk. Currently, there is no vaccine available to protect against COVID-19 and no specific treatment.

The County Health Officer requires the quarantine of people who have been exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Quarantine separates individuals exposed to COVID-19 from others, until it is determined that they are not at risk for spreading the disease. This is done to slow COVID-19’s spread, protect vulnerable individuals, and prevent the healthcare system in the County from being overwhelmed.

### **UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SECTIONS 101040 AND 120175 OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:**

1. All persons who have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 (“Case”), as described below in Section 2, must quarantine themselves. These persons are required to follow all instructions in this Order and the Public Health guidance documents referenced in this Order.
2. For the purposes of this Order, a person is considered to have had close contact with a Case if, during the Case’s infectious period, the person was within six feet of the Case for 15 minutes or longer. Examples may include persons who:



- a. Live in, have visited, or have stayed overnight at the Case's residence; or
- b. Are intimate sexual partners of the Case; or
- c. Worked within six feet of the Case; or
- d. Provide or provided care to the Case without wearing a mask, a face shield or goggles, gown, and gloves; or
- e. Have been identified as close contacts by the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services.

For purposes of this Order, a Case is infectious from 48 hours before their symptoms began (or, in the absence of symptoms, from 48 hours before the date of administration of a positive test for the presence of COVID-19) and until they are released from isolation.

3. Instructions: all persons who have had close contact with a Case must immediately take the following actions:
  - a. Stay in their home or another residence through 14 days from the last date that they were in contact with the person infected, or likely to be infected with COVID-19. Persons are required to quarantine themselves for the entirety of the 14-day incubation period, because they are at high risk for developing and spreading COVID-19.
  - b. Quarantined persons may not leave their place of quarantine or enter any other public or private place, except to receive necessary medical care or during an emergency that requires evacuation to protect the health and safety of the person.
  - c. Carefully review and closely follow all requirements listed in the "Home Quarantine Instructions," posted at [humboldt.gov/blanketorders](https://humboldt.gov/blanketorders) and attached to this order.
  - d. If a quarantined person becomes sick with: fever, cough, or shortness of breath (even if their symptoms are very mild); they shall isolate themselves at home and away from other people, and follow the "Home Isolation Instructions" posted at [humboldt.gov/blanketorders](https://humboldt.gov/blanketorders) and attached to this order. This is because the person is likely to have COVID-19 and if so, can spread it to vulnerable individuals. If a medical professional examines a quarantined person and determines that their symptoms are not due to COVID-19, the person may discontinue home isolation; but shall continue to follow the home quarantine order and instructions.



4. Exception: notwithstanding the foregoing, health care workers and first responder agency workers -who are household members, intimate partners, or caregivers of a person with COVID-19- are not subject to this Order under the following circumstances:
  - a. The worker informs their employer about the worker's close contact to a lab-confirmed Case;
  - b. The worker is asymptomatic, and the worker's employer determines, based on staffing needs, that the worker needs to report to work; AND
  - c. The worker returns to work.
5. 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.
6. This Order shall become effective on August 18, 2020, and will continue to be in effect until it is: extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended by the Health Officer.
7. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services Public Health Branch, 529 I Street, Eureka, CA 95501; (2) posted on the Humboldt County website [humboldt.gov/blanketorders](http://humboldt.gov/blanketorders); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy.
8. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then 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.
9. Questions or comments regarding this Order may be directed to Public Health's Communicable Disease Control Program at 707-268-2182.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

Teresa Frankovich, MD

Dated: 8/18/20



Health Officer of the County of Humboldt County

Attachments:

Appendix A: "Home Quarantine Instructions"

Appendix B: "Home Isolation Instructions"