



## **City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health**

### **DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY REGARDING NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)**

**WHEREAS**, Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes the local health officer to declare a local health emergency in the health officer's jurisdiction whenever the health officer reasonably determines that there is an imminent and proximate threat to the public health due to the introduction of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease;

**WHEREAS**, On February 25, 2020, London N. Breed, Mayor of San Francisco, issued the Proclamation by the Mayor Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency (the "Mayor's Local Emergency Declaration") under Sections 8550 *et seq.* of the Government Code, Section 3.100(13) of the San Francisco Charter, and Chapter 7 of the San Francisco Administrative Code, establishing the existence of an emergency within the City and County of San Francisco due to the ongoing spread of a novel coronavirus discovered in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019 (also referred to as Coronavirus Disease 2019 or "COVID-19"); and

**WHEREAS**, On March 3, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco passed a motion concurring in the Mayor's Local Emergency Declaration and in the actions taken by the Mayor to meet the emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 4, 2020, Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, issued the Proclamation of a State of Emergency under Section 8625 of the California Government Code and the California Emergency Services Act, establishing the existence of a state of emergency throughout California due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 5, 2020, the Mayor's Office and the San Francisco Department of Public Health announced that two individuals in San Francisco had contracted COVID-19 without any known avenue of transmission, suggesting the contagion was community-acquired by the individuals and that the virus is circulating in the Bay Area; and

**WHEREAS**, The Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco (the "Health Officer") finds that based on the facts and circumstances described below there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of COVID-19 in the City and County of San Francisco:

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and the World Health Organization ("W.H.O.") consider COVID-19 to be a very serious public health threat based on current information. In part, the virus is considered a public health threat because much remains unknown. The exact modes of transmission, the factors facilitating human-to-human transmission, the extent of asymptomatic viral shedding, the groups most at risk of serious illness, the attack rate, and the case fatality rate all remain active areas of investigation and are only partially characterized at this time. The best information to date suggests that the virus is spread between people primarily via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and infected individuals have



## **City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health**

### **DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY REGARDING NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) March 6, 2020**

experienced a range of outcomes, from mild sickness to severe illness and death. The CDC believes at this time that symptoms appear two to fourteen days after exposure. Currently, there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19.

The number of reported cases of COVID-19 has escalated dramatically over a short period of time. To date, there are approximately 101,917 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and over 3,488 deaths from COVID-19 globally, including 83 cases and 1 death in California. A substantial number of cases and deaths has also occurred in Washington State. Cases have now occurred across the globe, including across the United States and dozens of nations. Cases now include individuals who never visited China, where the disease appears to have originated. The virus is highly transmissible even with mild illness, and sometimes without symptoms. And the W.H.O. has declared the outbreak to be a global health emergency.

Actions are being taken to protect public health and limit the spread of COVID-19 in the United States and around the world. However, it appears that this disease has become an epidemic and will continue to spread through communities including the Bay Area. Due to the fact that the disease has a serious adverse impact on and high fatality rate for certain vulnerable groups, including individuals 60 years old or older, those with diseases of the immune system, and those with diabetes, lung disease, heart disease, and kidney disease, COVID-19 poses a serious risk to tens of thousands of persons in the Bay Area and San Francisco.

Additionally, since February 2020, a nursing home in the Seattle, Washington area has not only had confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst its residents, but multiple residents at that facility have died as a result of that infection, further supporting the scientific evidence that the elderly and those with co-morbidities face an unusually high risk of death from this disease. San Francisco has many similar facilities, including Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center, a long term care unit at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, and other skilled nursing facilities.

Given the potential impact on these high-risk populations, it is imperative that all appropriate steps be taken to slow down and reduce the rate of community-acquired transmission of COVID-19, including implementation of mitigation measures and other steps authorized to be taken by the Health Officer under Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 101 of the California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 3 of Part 1 of Division 105 of the California Health and Safety Code, and any other applicable local, state, and federal laws.

**WHEREAS**, By declaring a local health emergency, the Health Officer activates the provisions of Section 101085 of the California Health and Safety Code, Section 8659 of the California Government Code, and as otherwise provided for by law; and

**WHEREAS**, Under Section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code, a local health emergency declared by the Health Officer may remain in effect for up to seven days but it can continue beyond that period if it has been ratified by the Board of Supervisors; and



## City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health

### **DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY REGARDING NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) March 6, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, the Health Officer believes that the emergency relating to COVID-19 will persist beyond seven days and respectfully requests that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors ratify this local health emergency declaration; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, under Section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code the Health Officer declares that a local health emergency exists in the City and County of San Francisco and that the local health emergency shall continue beyond March 13, 2020, if the San Francisco Board of Supervisors ratifies the local health emergency, until the Board of Supervisors proclaims the local health emergency has terminated.

Date: March 6, 2020

Time:

Issued by:

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

---

Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH  
Health Officer  
San Francisco Department of Public Health