



**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER No. C19-05b (revised)**

DATE ORDER ISSUED: March 13, 2020  
(Original Order was dated March 11, 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.*)**

Summary: The virus that causes Coronavirus 2019 Disease (“COVID-19”) is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect all members of the community, especially including the most vulnerable and health care providers, this Order prohibits all indoor public and private gatherings and outdoor gatherings within an enclosed space that has a maximum occupant load of 100 people or more anywhere in San Francisco beginning at 5 p.m. on March 13, 2020 and continuing for seven weeks through April 30, 2020, subject to the limited exceptions and under the terms and conditions more particularly set forth below. For all other gatherings, and for the entire duration of this Order, the Health Officer strongly recommends following the social distancing protocols attached to this Order, including: (i) canceling, rescheduling, or not attending non-essential events; (ii) avoiding social gatherings under 100 people where social distancing of six feet is not possible; (iii) for people with medical conditions, regardless of age, that put them at higher risk of serious complications should they get COVID-19, avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people when possible; and (iv) for employers in San Francisco that do not provide essential public services, taking all steps necessary for employees to work remotely from home to the extent possible. These recommendations are based on the California Department of Public Health and United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines issued March 11, 2020. The Health Officer may revise this Order as the situation evolves, and facilities must stay updated by checking the City Administrator’s website ([sfgsa.org](http://sfgsa.org)) regularly.

**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. This Order revokes and replaces Order Number C19-05, originally issued March 11, 2020. That order is no longer in effect as of the effective date and time of this Order.**
- 2. Effective as of 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2020, public or private Mass Gatherings (as defined in Section 13 below) are prohibited anywhere in the City and County of San Francisco (the “City”) for the reasons listed below.**



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- 3. As an additional protection for the health of all members of the public, the Health Officer strongly recommends that all people within the City follow the social distancing practices issued by the San Francisco Department of Public Health on March 6, 2020 and updated on March 13, 2020 (the “Social Distancing Recommendations”), a copy of which is attached to this Order and incorporated by this reference, as well as the guidance regarding gatherings issued by the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) on March 11, 2020 (available online at [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Gathering\\_Guidance\\_03.11.20.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Gathering_Guidance_03.11.20.pdf)) and the “Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission” issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) on or around March 11, 2020 (available online at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>), including as these items are updated in the future.**
- 4. Every person in the City is responsible to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The best way to do that is to avoid gatherings of any size where sufficient social distancing is not possible. Accordingly, in addition to the strict prohibition on Mass Gatherings, the Health Officer strongly recommends that gatherings under 100 people not occur for the duration of this Order if social distancing of six feet per person is not possible. For sake of clarity, while not a requirement subject to fine or imprisonment under this Order, the Health Officer strongly recommends that large entertainment or social gatherings below 100 people be postponed or canceled.**
- 5. The CDPH and CDC guidance cited in Section 3 above also includes recommendations for employers, and the Health Officer strongly recommends that employers comply with those guidelines. For sake of clarity, while not a requirement subject to fine or imprisonment under this Order, the Health Officer strongly recommends that employers that do not provide essential public services take all steps necessary for employees to work remotely from home to the extent possible.**
- 6. Both CDPH and CDC guidelines now recommend that gatherings of people at higher-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people. This Order does not prohibit gatherings of more than 10 people for high-risk people because individual organizations and service providers that work with these groups are best able to determine when gatherings may need to occur. But the Health Officer, again without creating a requirement subject to fine or imprisonment under this Order, strongly encourages individuals and organizations/facilities not to permit or attend gatherings of more than 10 people that include high-risk individuals unless such gatherings are deemed necessary. As of the date of this Order, the categories of underlying medical conditions that put people at higher risk of serious COVID-19 illness per CDC guidance includes the following, regardless of age, and this Order automatically adopts any revisions**



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made by the CDC in the future:

- **Blood disorders (e.g., sickle cell disease or on blood thinners).**
  - **Chronic kidney disease as defined by the person's doctor. This includes a patient who has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because of kidney disease, or is under treatment for kidney disease, including receiving dialysis.**
  - **Chronic liver disease as defined by the person's doctor (e.g., cirrhosis, chronic hepatitis). This includes when the person has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because of liver disease or is under treatment for liver disease.**
  - **Compromised immune system (immunosuppression) (e.g., seeing a doctor for cancer and treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation, received an organ or bone marrow transplant, taking high doses of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressant medications, or has HIV or AIDS).**
  - **Current pregnancy or recent pregnancy in the last two weeks.**
  - **Endocrine disorders (e.g., diabetes mellitus).**
  - **Metabolic disorders (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders).**
  - **Heart disease (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease).**
  - **Lung disease including asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (chronic bronchitis or emphysema) or other chronic conditions associated with impaired lung function or that require home oxygen.**
  - **Neurological and neurologic and neurodevelopment conditions, including disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy (seizure disorders), stroke, intellectual disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury.**
7. **This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing occurrence of COVID-19 within the City and throughout the Bay Area, scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, and evidence that the age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the City places them at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in the general public, which is now a pandemic according to the World Health Organization, there is a public health emergency throughout the City. Making the problem worse, some individuals who contract the COVID-19 virus have no symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means they may not be aware they carry the virus. Because even people without symptoms can transmit the disease, and because evidence shows the disease is easily spread, large gatherings can result in preventable transmission of the virus. The scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it is essential to slow virus**



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transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. One proven way to slow the transmission is to limit mass gatherings in the early stages of the emergency. By reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this Order helps preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the City.

8. This Order also is issued in light of the existence of 21 cases of COVID-19 in the City, as well as at least 117 reported cases and at least one death in the Bay Area, as of 10:00 a.m. on March 13, 2020, including a significant and increasing number of assumed cases of community transmission and likely further significant increases in transmission. Widespread testing for COVID-19 is not yet available but is expected to increase in the coming days. This Order is necessary to slow the rate of spread and the Health Officer will re-evaluate it as further data becomes available.
9. This Order is issued to prevent circumstances often present in Mass Gatherings that are likely to exacerbate the spread of COVID-19. Those circumstances include, without limitation: (a) the increased likelihood that Mass Gatherings will attract people from a broad geographic area; (b) the prolonged time period during which large numbers of people are in close proximity; (c) the difficulty in tracing exposure when large numbers of people attend a single event; (d) the inability to ensure that attendees follow adequate hygienic and social distancing practices like those described in the attached Social Distancing Recommendations; and (e) the possibility that a person with the virus may be in attendance.
10. 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, as supplemented on March 11, 2020, the March 6, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency Regarding Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) issued by the Health Officer, and the CDPH guidance referred to in Section 3 above, as each of them have been and may be supplemented.
11. This Order is also issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference the March 12, 2020 Executive Order (Executive Order N-25-20) issued by Governor Gavin Newsom. Executive Order N-25-20 expressly orders that “[a]ll residents are to heed any orders and guidance of state and local public health officials, including but not limited to the imposition of social distancing measures, to control the spread of COVID-19.”
12. The Health Officer will continue to assess the quickly evolving situation and may, at any time or from time to time, modify or extend this Order, or issue additional orders, related to COVID-19.



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**13. Covered Mass Gatherings:**

- a. For purposes of this Order, a “Mass Gathering” is any event, convening, or collection of people, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, in any space with a maximum occupant load of 100 people or more. These spaces include, by way of example and without limitation, an auditorium, theater, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space as further described in subparagraph b.
- b. For the sake of clarity, a Mass Gathering includes events in confined outdoor spaces where 100 or more people are together at the same time. For purposes of this Order, a confined outdoor space is an outdoor space that (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and (ii) where people are present and they are within arm’s length of one another for extended periods.
- c. This Order does not prohibit gatherings of people within an office building or other structure that has multiple, separate enclosed spaces so long as no room or space having a maximum occupant load of 100 people or more is being used for gatherings. For any gathering covered by this subparagraph c, the Health Officer strongly encourages compliance with the attached Social Distancing Recommendations, including providing hand sanitizer and tissues and increasing cleaning of commonly-touched surfaces. But Theaters, as provided in subparagraph g below, have special rules.
- d. A Mass Gathering also does not include gatherings that occur in the following venues unless otherwise prohibited by this Order: (i) San Francisco International Airport, which is not located within the City; (ii) public or private schools; (iii) museums (so long as visitors are generally are not within arm’s length of one another for extended periods); (iv) spaces where 100 or more people may be in transit or waiting for transit such as bus, ferry, or subway stations or terminals; (v) office space, hotels, or residential buildings (subject to subparagraph c above); (vi) grocery stores, shopping malls, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but it is unusual for them to be within arm’s length of one another for extended periods; (vii) hospitals and medical facilities; and (viii) places of worship; and (ix) facilities that provide food and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals and shelter facilities (which will be addressed separately by the Health Officer and the Department of Public Health). In all such settings listed in this subparagraph d, the Health Officer recommends following the attached Social Distancing Recommendations, and harm reduction measures such as hand sanitizer and tissues should be provided when possible. Except for spaces covered by clauses (iv), (viii), and



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(ix) above, any specific large gathering space that is part of any building included in this subparagraph d is subject to the prohibition on Mass Gatherings if the space has a maximum occupant load of 100 or more people. For any place of worship included in clause (viii) above, any gathering for a religious service that occurs in a room that has a maximum occupant load of 100 or more people is limited to a total attendance of 100 people. A Mass Gathering also includes events held in a cruise ship while that ship is docked at any City port.

- e. For purposes of clarity, a Mass Gathering includes any gathering or collection of people in a restaurant, cafe, bar, night club, or other social gathering space within any building where the space or venue has a maximum occupant load of 100 or more people. For clarity, restaurants or other establishments that have a maximum occupant load of 100 or more people may still sell or provide food on a pick-up or takeout basis so long as patrons are not eating on-premises.
- f. Solely for restaurants and cafes that have a maximum occupant load between 100 and 500 people, each such facility that wishes to operate during the effect of this Order may do so by operating at 50 percent of their maximum occupant load up to a maximum of 100 patrons, for the duration of this Order. For example, if a room had a maximum occupant load of 150, under this Order it would be permitted to have a gathering of up to 75 people, and if a room had a maximum occupant load of 350, under this Order it would be permitted to have a gathering of up to 100 people.
- g. Theaters (as defined below) pose a special risk of allowing COVID-19 transmission because large numbers of people are in close quarters, sit together in one space for long periods of time, and have frequent turn-over. This results in many avenues for transmission of the COVID-19 virus during each seating and between seatings. For purposes of this Order, a “Theater” is any enclosed space that has seats, whether fixed or movable, and a stage or screen, such as a movie theater or a theater for live performances (each a “Theater”). For each Theater, the Theater may not be used for any gathering if the room has a maximum occupant load of 100 or more people. For any other Theater to operate, the owner, manager, or operator of the Theater must (i) clean all hard surfaces in the Theater, such as chair armrests, door handles, and accessible seat surfaces with a disinfectant between each performance or seating, (ii) provide hand sanitizer at entrances, (iii) have hand washing facilities available in restrooms or other locations on site, and (iv) comply with a written social distance plan that each Theater develops that ensures at least six feet is maintained between people (such as skipping rows or putting empty seats between every attendee). For the sake of clarity, each Theater, whether it is a single room or within a



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**multiplex that contains multiple Theaters, must comply with this subparagraph g.**

- h. This Order applies to public meetings of policy bodies for the purposes of conducting the government's business, such as meetings of the Board of Supervisors, committees of the Board of Supervisors, City commissions and other policy bodies. Meetings of City policy bodies are subject to compliance with the Mayor's Emergency Declarations and Governor's Emergency Declarations described in Sections 10 and 11 above. But for meetings of policy bodies in government owned buildings, such as City Hall, up to 100 people may be in a room at any one time even if the maximum capacity of that room allows for more than 100 people. This subparagraph h supersedes the Health Officer's order dated March 7, 2020 to the extent it allowed City policy bodies to continue to meet as normal. The Health Officer strongly recommends that the City and other government agencies that meet in the City cancel all policy body meetings during the effect of this Order if those meetings are not necessary to make decisions essential to the continuity of governmental operations and services and the promotion of the health, safety, and welfare of the public. For City policy body meetings in rooms, the people responsible for the meeting shall ensure that: (i) the building has hand washing capabilities, (ii) hand sanitizer and tissues are available during the meeting, (iii) high-touch surface areas like door handles, countertops, tables, and handrails in the meeting area are frequently cleaned, and (iv) attendees comply with a social distance plan that ensures at least six feet is maintained between people.**
- i. For purposes of this Order, rooms with a maximum occupant load of 100 or more people in facilities owned or operated by (i) the California State Government, (ii) any state or federal courts, or (iii) the United States Government, may be used for official purposes, but not for social or entertainment purposes. When used for official purposes, the Health Officer strongly recommends compliance with the Social Distancing Recommendations.**
- 14. This Order shall be effective until 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2020, or until it is earlier rescinded, superseded, or amended by the Health Officer or by the State Public Health Officer, in writing.**
- 15. Pursuant to Sections 26602 and 41601 of the California Government Code and Section 101029 of the California Health and Safety Code, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and the Chief of Police in the City ensure compliance with and enforce this Order.**



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16. The City must promptly provide copies of this Order as follows: (1) by posting on the City Administrator's website ([sfgsa.org](http://sfgsa.org)) and the Department of Public Health website ([sfdph.org](http://sfdph.org)); (2) by posting at City Hall, located at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl., San Francisco, CA 94102; and (3) by providing to any member of the public requesting a copy. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy. Because serving copies of this Order on every entity may not be feasible, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is subject to this Order or that becomes aware of or receives a copy of the Order in any manner is ordered to check the City Administrator's website ([sfgsa.org](http://sfgsa.org)) on a regular basis in order to look for updates to this Order and is required to comply with any updates until this Order is terminated.
17. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

*Tomás Aragón*

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

Date: March 13, 2020





**PUBLIC HEALTH SOCIAL DISTANCING RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**AS OF MARCH 13, 2020 (revised)**

NOTE that any order of the San Francisco Health Officer controls over these recommendations.

**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.
  - People who are pregnant or were pregnant in the last two weeks.
- For vulnerable populations, don't go to gatherings (of 10 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 and implement whenever possible.
- Some people need to be at work to provide essential services of great benefit to the community. They and their employers should take steps in their workplace to minimize risk.

**3) Gatherings: Cancel Events**

- Cancel large gatherings of 100 people or more, such as concerts, sporting events, conventions or large community events.
- Smaller gatherings held in venues that do not allow social distancing of six feet per person should be postponed or canceled. This includes gatherings in crowded auditoriums, rooms or other venues.
- 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 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



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potential closures.

### 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.
- Some facilities, including skilled nursing facilities, have been ordered not to permit visitors during this emergency subject to certain exceptions.
- 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: Be responsible and 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. Also see the "Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission" issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") on or around March 11, 2020 (available online at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf)).

**ATTACHMENT TO HEALTH OFFICER ORDER NO. C19-05b**