



REGINA CHINSIO-KWONG, DO
COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

MATTHEW ZAHN, MD
DEPUTY COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER/MEDICAL DIRECTOR CDCD

405 W. 5TH STREET, 7TH FLOOR
SANTA ANA, CA 92701
www.ochealthinfo.com

COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH OFFICER'S ORDERS AND STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS

(Revised March 11, 2022)

In light of recent Face Mask Guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and certain recent orders issued by the State Public Health Officer regarding COVID-19 vaccine requirements, the following Orders and Strong Recommendations shall revise and replace the prior Orders and Strong Recommendations of the County Health Officer that were issued on January 14, 2022. The Orders and Strong Recommendations issued on January 14, 2022, are no longer in effect as of March 11, 2022.

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 101030, 101040, 101470, 120175, and 120130, the County Health Officer for County of Orange orders and strongly recommends the following:

ORDERS

Effective immediately, and continuing until further notice, the following shall be in effect in unincorporated and incorporated territories of Orange County, California:

I. Self-Isolation of Persons with COVID-19 Order

NOTE: This Self-Isolation Order DOES NOT in any way restrict access by first responders to an isolation site during an emergency.

1. Persons who are symptom-free but test positive for COVID-19.

If you do not have any COVID-19 symptoms (as defined below in this Order) but test positive for COVID-19, you shall immediately isolate yourself in your home or another suitable place for at least 5 days from the date you test positive and may end your self-isolation after day 5:

- If you continue not having any COVID-19 symptoms and a diagnostic specimen collected on day 5 or later tests negative.
 - While an antigen test, nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), or LAMP test are acceptable, use of an antigen test is recommended. Use of Over-the-Counter tests are also acceptable to end isolation.
- Exception. If you are unable to test on day 5 or after, choose not to test, or test positive after day 5, you shall continue your self-isolation through day 10 from the date of your positive test and may end your self-isolation after 10 days. If you develop COVID-19 symptoms during the time of your self-isolation, you may still end your self-isolation after 10 days regardless of whether your symptoms are present on Day 11.

All persons who test positive for COVID-19 should continue to wear a well-fitting mask at all times around other people through day 10.

2. Persons who have COVID-19 symptoms.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, you shall immediately isolate yourself in your home or another suitable place. You may leave isolation if your symptoms resolve within 24 hours without fever reducing agents. If your symptoms persist more than 24 hours, continue to isolate for 10 days from the date of your symptom(s) onset and may end your self-isolation under either of the following conditions:

- If a diagnostic specimen collected as early as the date of your symptom(s) onset tests negative.
 - While an antigen test, nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), or LAMP test are acceptable, use of an antigen test is recommended. Use of Over-the-Counter tests are also acceptable to end isolation.
- If you obtain an alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider.
- You are not required to self-isolate for more than 10 days from the date of your COVID-19 symptom(s) onset regardless of whether your symptoms are present on Day 11.

All persons who have COVID-19 symptoms should continue to wear a well-fitting mask at all times around other people through at least Day 10.

3. Additional Considerations for Self-Isolation.

- A person who is self-isolated may not leave his or her place of isolation except to receive necessary medical care.
- If a more specific and individualized isolation order is issued by the County Health Officer for any county resident, the resident shall follow the specific order instead of the order herein.
- People who are severely ill with COVID-19 might need to stay in self-isolation longer than 5 days and up to 20 days after symptoms first appeared. People with weakened immune systems should talk to their healthcare provider for more information.

NOTE: In workplaces, employers and employees are subject to the Isolation and quarantine requirements as stated in the CalOSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) or in some workplaces the Cal/OSHA Aerosol transmissible Diseases (ATD) Standard. Information about CalOSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) can be found at <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus>.

COVID-19 Symptom(s).

Whenever the term “symptom” or “*COVID-19 symptom*” is used, it shall mean COVID-19 symptom. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose

- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- The list above does not include all possible symptoms.

II. Face-Coverings/Masks:

To help prevent the spread of droplets containing COVID-19, all County residents and visitors are strongly recommended to wear face coverings in accordance with and as required by the Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings issued by CDPH, effective March 1, 2022. The Guidance is attached herein as Attachment "A" and can be found at:

A: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>.

Masks are required for all individuals in the following indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status:

- Public Transit and in transportation hubs- Masks guidance/requirement is subject to Federal Requirements and guidance found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>
Examples: airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-shares) and in transportation hubs (examples: airports, bus terminals, marina, train station, seaport or other port, subway station, or any other area that provides transportation).
- Emergency shelters and cooling and heating centers.
- Healthcare settings (applies to all healthcare settings, including those that are not covered by State Health Officer Order issued on July 26, 2021).
- Local correctional facilities and detention centers.
- Long Term Care Settings & Adult and Senior Care Facilities.

NOTE: In workplaces, employers are subject to the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) as modified by the Governor's Executive Order N-5-22 or in some workplaces the Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD) Standard and should consult those regulations for additional applicable requirements.

NOTE: In accordance with State Health Officer Order, issued on July 26, 2021, and found at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Unvaccinated-Workers-In-High-Risk-Settings.aspx>, in certain healthcare situations or settings, surgical masks are required.

No person shall be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a business.

Exemptions to masks requirements.

- The following individuals are exempt from this mask order:
 - Persons younger than two years old.
 - Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a mask could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance.
 - Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
 - Persons for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.

III. Health Care Workers COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement Order:

To help prevent transmission of COVID-19, all workers who provide services or work in facilities described below shall comply with the COVID-19 vaccination and booster dose requirements as set forth in the February 22, 2022, State Health Officer Order. A copy of the State Health Officer Order is attached herein as Attachment "B" and can be found at the following link:

B: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Health-Care-Worker-Vaccine-Requirement.aspx>

Facilities covered by this order include:

- General Acute Care Hospitals

- Skilled Nursing Facilities (including Subacute Facilities)
 - Intermediate Care Facilities
 - Acute Psychiatric Hospitals
 - Adult Day Health Care Centers
 - Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and PACE Centers
 - Ambulatory Surgery Centers
 - Chemical Dependency Recovery Hospitals
 - Clinics & Doctor Offices (including behavioral health, surgical)
 - Congregate Living Health Facilities
 - Dialysis Centers
 - Hospice Facilities
 - Pediatric Day Health and Respite Care Facilities
 - Residential Substance Use Treatment and Mental Health Treatment Facilities
- The word, "worker," as used in this Order shall have the same meaning as defined in the State Health Officer's Order, dated December 22, 2021.

IV. Requirements and Guidance for Specific Facilities

1. Requirements for COVID-19 Vaccination Status Verification, COVID-19 Testing, and Masking for Certain Facilities.

To help prevent transmission of COVID-19, all facilities described below shall comply with the State Health Officer Order, issued on July 26, 2021 and effective August 9, 2021. A copy of the State Health Officer Order is attached herein as Attachment "C" and can be found at the following link:

C: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Unvaccinated-Workers-In-High-Risk-Settings.aspx>

Facilities covered by this order include:

- Acute Health Care and Long-Term Care Settings:
 - General Acute Care Hospitals
 - Skilled Nursing Facilities (including Subacute Facilities)

- Intermediate Care Facilities
 - High-Risk Congregate Settings:
 - Adult and Senior Care Facilities
 - Homeless Shelters
 - State and Local Correctional Facilities and Detention Centers
 - Other Health Care Settings:
 - Acute Psychiatric Hospitals
 - Adult Day Health Care Centers
 - Adult Day Programs Licensed by the California Department of Social Services
 - Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and PACE Centers
 - Ambulatory Surgery Centers
 - Chemical Dependency Recovery Hospitals
 - Clinics & Doctor Offices (including behavioral health, surgical)
 - Congregate Living Health Facilities
 - Dental Offices
 - Dialysis Centers
 - Hospice Facilities
 - Pediatric Day Health and Respite Care Facilities
 - Residential Substance Use Treatment and Mental Health Treatment Facilities
2. **Requirements for COVID-19 Vaccine Status Verification and COVID-19 Testing for School Workers in Transitional Kindergarten through Grade 12.**

To prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in K-12 school settings, all public and private schools serving students in transitional kindergarten through grade 12 shall comply with the State Health Officer Order, effective August 12, 2021, regarding verification of COVID-19 vaccination status and COVID-19 testing of all workers. A copy of the State Health Officer Order is attached herein as Attachment "D" and can be found at the following link:

D: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Vaccine-Verification-for-Workers-in-Schools.aspx>

This Order does not apply to (i) home schools, (ii) child care settings, or (iii) higher education.

3. Local Correctional Facilities and Detention Centers Health Care Worker Vaccination Requirement.

To prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in local correctional facilities and detention centers, all individuals identified in the State Health Officer Order, effective December 22, 2021, shall comply with the State Health Officer's Order with regards to obtaining COVID-19 vaccination and booster doses. A copy of the State Health Officer Order is attached herein as Attachment "E" and can be found at the following link:

E: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Health-Care-Worker-Vaccine-Requirement.aspx>

4. Adult Care Facilities and Direct Care Worker Vaccination Requirements.

To help prevent transmission of COVID-19, all individuals specified below shall comply with the COVID-19 vaccination and booster dose requirements as set forth in the February 22, 2022, State Health Officer Order. A copy of the State Health Officer Order is attached herein as Attachment "F" and can be found at the following link:

F: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Adult-Care-Facilities-and-Direct-Care-Worker-Vaccine-Requirement.aspx>

Individuals covered by this order include:

- All workers who provide services or work in Adult and Senior Care Facilities licensed by the California Department of Social Services;
- All in-home direct care services workers, including registered home care aides and certified home health aides, except for those workers who only provide services to a recipient with whom they live or who are a family member of the recipient for whom they provide services;
- All waiver personal care services (WPCS) providers, as defined by the California Department of Health Care Services, and in-home supportive services (IHSS) providers, as defined by the California Department of Social Services, except for

those workers who only provide services to a recipient with whom they live or who are a family member of the recipient for whom they provide services;

- All hospice workers who are providing services in the home or in a licensed facility; and
- All regional center employees, as well as service provider workers, who provide services to a consumer through the network of Regional Centers serving individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, except for those workers who only provide services to a recipient with whom they live or who are a family member of the recipient for whom they provide services.

5. Requirements for Visiting Acute Health Care and Long-Term Care Settings.

To help prevent transmission of COVID-19, all acute health care and long-term care settings shall comply with the indoor visitation requirements set forth in the State Health Officer issued February 7, 2022. A copy of the State Health Officer Order is attached herein as Attachment "G" and can be found at the following link:

G. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Requirements-for-Visitors-in-Acute-Health-Care-and-Long-Term-Care-Settings.aspx>

V. Seasonal Flu Vaccination Order:

Seasonal Flu Vaccination for Certain County Residents.

All individuals who reside or work in Orange County and fall under one of the following categories, shall obtain the seasonal flu vaccination unless a medical or religious exemption applies: (i) current providers for congregate settings; (ii) current health care providers; and (iii) current emergency responders. However, nothing herein shall be construed as an obligation, on the part of employers, public or private, to require employees obtain the seasonal flu vaccination as a term or condition of employment.

- *Emergency responder* shall mean military or national guard; law enforcement officers; correctional institution personnel; fire fighters; emergency medical services personnel; physicians; nurses; public health personnel; emergency medical technicians; paramedics; emergency management personnel; 911 operators; child welfare workers and service providers; public works personnel; and persons with

skills or training in operating specialized equipment or other skills needed to provide aid in a declared emergency; as well as individuals who work for such facilities employing these individuals and whose work is necessary to maintain the operation of the facility.

- *Health care provider* shall mean physicians; psychiatrists; nurses; nurse practitioners; nurse assistants; medical technicians; any other person who is employed to provide diagnostic services, preventive services, treatment services or other services that are integrated with and necessary to the provision of patient care and, if not provided, would adversely impact patient care; and employees who directly assist or are supervised by a direct provider of diagnostic, preventive, treatment, or other patient care services; and employees who do not provide direct health care services to a patient but are otherwise integrated into and necessary to the provision those services – for example, a laboratory technician who processes medical test results to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of a health condition. A person is not a health care provider merely because his or her employer provides health care services or because he or she provides a service that affects the provision of health care services. For example, IT professionals, building maintenance staff, human resources personnel, cooks, food services workers, records managers, consultants, and billers are not health care providers, even if they work at a hospital of a similar health care facility.

STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS

Effective immediately, and continuing until further notice, the following shall be in effect in unincorporated and incorporated territories in Orange County, California:

1. Self-quarantine of Persons Exposed to COVID-19

- If you are known to be exposed to COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status, prior disease, or occupation), it is strongly recommended to follow CDPH Quarantine guidance found at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-onIsolation-and-Quarantine-for-COVID-19-Contact-Tracing.aspx>.

- **K-12 Schools and Child Care**

- Schools/school districts are advised to follow CDPH COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-2022 School Year found at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx>
- Child care providers and programs are advised to follow CDPH Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs found at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Child-Care-Guidance.aspx>.
- In workplaces, employers and employees are subject to the Quarantine requirement as stated in the CalOSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) or in some workplaces the Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD) Standard.

Exposed to COVID-19 or exposure to COVID-19 mean to be within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

2. **For Vulnerable Populations.** In general, the older a person is, the more health conditions a person has, and the more severe the conditions, the more important it is to take preventive measures for COVID-19 such as getting vaccinated, including boosters, social distancing and wearing a mask when around people who don't live in the same household, and practicing hand hygiene. For more information see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>.
3. **COVID-19 Vaccination for County Residents.** All Orange County residents should receive COVID-19 vaccination in accordance with the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and CDC guidance. Minors, who are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccination in accordance with the applicable CDC guidelines, should be vaccinated in the presence of their parent or legal guardian.
CDC Guidance can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/vaccines/recommendations/specific-groups.html>

4. **Seasonal Flu Vaccination for County Residents**. All County residents who are six months of age or older should obtain the seasonal flu vaccination unless a medical or religious exemption applies.
5. **COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing for Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics and Home Healthcare Providers**. To help prevent transmission of COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that all Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, and Home Healthcare Providers (including In Home Supportive Services Program workers) remain up-to-date as defined by CDC with COVID-19 vaccination. CDC Guidance can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/specific-groups.html>
6. Furthermore, it is strongly recommended that all unvaccinated Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, and Home Healthcare Providers (including In Home Supportive Services Program workers) undergo at least twice weekly testing for COVID-19 until such time they are fully vaccinated.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Orders and Strong Recommendations, above, shall not supersede any conflicting or more restrictive orders issued by the State of California or federal government. If any portion of this document or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of the document, 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 the orders and strong recommendations are severable.
2. The Orders contained in this document may be enforced by the Orange County Sheriff or Chiefs of Police pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 101029, and California Government Code sections 26602 and 41601. A violation of a health order is subject to fine, imprisonment, or both (California Health and Safety Code section 120295).

REASONS FOR THE ORDERS AND STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS

1. On February 26, 2020, the County of Orange Health Officer declared a Local Health Emergency based on an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of COVID-19 in Orange County.
2. On February 26, 2020, the Chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors, acting as the Chair of Emergency Management Council, proclaimed a Local Emergency in that the imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of COVID-19 created conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of Orange County.
3. On March 2, 2020, the Orange County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolutions No. 20-011 and No. 20-012 ratifying the Local Health Emergency and Local Emergency, referenced above.
4. On March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California declared a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19.
5. As of March 10, 2022, the County has reported a total of 542,056 recorded confirmed COVID-19 cases and 6,721 of COVID-19 related deaths.
6. Safe and effective authorized COVID-19 vaccines are recommended by the CDC. According to CDC, anyone infected with COVID-19 can spread it, even if they do NOT have symptoms. The novel coronavirus is spread in 3 ways: 1) Breathing in air when close to an infected person who is exhaling small droplets and particles that contain the virus. 2) Having these small droplets and particles that contain virus land on the eyes, nose, or mouth, especially through splashes and sprays like a cough or sneeze. 3) Touching eyes, nose, or mouth with hands that have the virus on them. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>.
7. The CDPH issued a revised Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings, effective March 1, 2022, available at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>
8. According to the CDC and CDPH, older adults, individuals with medical conditions, and pregnant and recently pregnant persons are at higher risk of severe illness when they contract COVID-19. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need->

[extra-precautions/index.html;](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID19/PublicHealthGuidanceSelfIsolationforOlderAdultsandThoseWhoHaveElevatedRisk.aspx) see also
[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/
Pages/COVID19/PublicHealthGuidanceSelfIsolationforOlderAdultsandThoseWhoHa
veElevatedRisk.aspx.](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID19/PublicHealthGuidanceSelfIsolationforOlderAdultsandThoseWhoHaveElevatedRisk.aspx)

9. The Orders and the Strong Recommendations contained in this document are based on the following facts, in addition to the facts stated under the foregoing paragraphs: (i) Safe and effective FDA authorized COVID-19 vaccines have become widely available, but many Orange County residents have not yet had the opportunity to be vaccinated, or have not completed their vaccination series to be fully vaccinated or boosted; (ii) there is limited supply of therapeutic options for high-risk individuals who have a high risk of exposure to COVID-19 or have mild-moderate COVID-19 infection; (iii) the current consensus among public health officials for slowing down the transmission of and avoiding contracting COVID-19 is for at-risk persons to complete a COVID-19 vaccination series and receive a booster if eligible, wear well-fitted mask in indoor settings when around others outside of their household, practice distancing, frequently wash hands with soap (iv) some individuals who contract COVID-19 have no symptoms or have only mild symptoms and so are unaware that they carry the virus and are transmitting it to others; (v) current evidence shows that the novel coronavirus can survive on surfaces and can be indirectly transmitted between individuals; (vi) older adults and individuals with medical conditions are at higher risk of severe illness; (vii) sustained COVID-19 community transmission continues to occur; (viii) the age, condition, and health of a portion of Orange County's residents place them at risk for serious health complications, including hospitalization and death, from COVID-19; (ix) younger and otherwise healthy people are also at risk for serious negative health outcomes and for transmitting the novel coronavirus to others.
10. The orders and strong recommendations contained in this document are necessary and less restrictive preventive measures to control and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Orange County, help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in Orange County and save the lives of Orange County residents.
11. The California Health and Safety Code section 120175 requires the County of Orange Health Officer knowing or having reason to believe that any case of a communicable

- disease exists or has recently existed within the County to take measures as may be necessary to prevent the spread of the disease or occurrence of additional cases.
12. The California Health and Safety Code sections 101030 and 101470 require the county health officer to enforce and observe in the unincorporated territory of the county and within the city boundaries located with a county all of the following: (a) Orders and ordinances of the board of supervisors, pertaining to the public health and sanitary matters; (b) Orders, including quarantine and other regulations, prescribed by the department; and (c) Statutes relating to public health.
13. The California Health and Safety Code section 101040 authorizes the County of Orange Health Officer to take any preventive measure that may be necessary to protect and preserve the public health from any public health hazard during any "state of war emergency," "state of emergency," or "local emergency," as defined by Section 8558 of the Government Code, within his or her jurisdiction. "Preventive measure" means abatement, correction, removal, or any other protective step that may be taken against any public health hazard that is caused by a disaster and affects the public health.
14. The California Health and Safety Code section 120130 (d) authorizes the County of Orange Health Officer to require strict or modified isolation, or quarantine, for any case of contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, when such action is necessary for the protection of the public health.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Date: March 11, 2022



Regina Chinsio-Kwong, DO
County Health Officer
County of Orange