

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER
(Effective April 14, 2020)

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 101040, 120175 et seq., and 120175.5 (b) the Health Officer of the County of Kern ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:


Effective 12:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, and continuing until further notice, the following will be in effect for Kern County (county):

1. On April 6, 2020, the California Emergency Medical Services Authority issued guidance for emergency medical services (EMS) providers to assist in protecting the community from asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19. In accordance with this guidance, this Order specifies and orders as follows:
 - a. EMS personnel must do the following:
 - i. Wear N95 respirators or equivalent when caring for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients or when likely to engage in aerosol-generating procedures or while encountering patients with aerosol-generating symptoms, such as coughing or sneezing.
 - ii. Place a surgical-type mask on all EMS patients at initial encounter, as tolerated.
 - iii. Wear respiratory protection for every EMS response (surgical-type mask or higher level protection as needed).
 - iv. Institute a one-crew member “scout” procedure to determine the nature of the EMS contact and the appropriate level of PPE.
2. There is an ongoing need to protect healthcare workers and patients in outpatient and acute care settings. This Order specifies and orders as follows:
 - a. Patients must be masked upon entering a healthcare facility if the patient isn’t already masked upon entering. Patients may wear cloth face coverings or be provided with surgical-type masks.
 - b. All staff in healthcare facilities must wear a surgical mask at all times while in the facility, unless caring for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients.
 - c. All staff in healthcare facilities must wear N95 respirators while caring for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients or when likely to engage in aerosol-generating procedures.
3. This Order is issued due to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that there have been reports of asymptomatic COVID-19 infections and pre-symptomatic COVID-19 infections.
4. This Order is intended to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure in healthcare facilities and to healthcare and EMS workers.
5. This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 both within the County and worldwide, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approach to slow transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, as well as best practices currently known and available to protect the public from the risk of spread of or exposure to COVID-19.
6. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference:
 - a. The Proclamation of a Local Emergency issued by the Chief Administrative Officer on March 16, 2020;

- b. The action of the County Board of Supervisors to ratify and continue the Local Emergency on March 17, 2020;
 - c. The Declaration of a Local Health Emergency issued by the Health Officer on March 30, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.;
 - d. The action of the County Board of Supervisors to ratify and continue the Local Health Emergency on March 31, 2020;
 - e. The Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by the Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020;
 - f. Proclamation 9984 regarding COVID-19 issued by the President of the United States on March 11, 2020; and
 - g. Guidance for EMS: COVID-19 precautions, exposures and illness issued by California Emergency Medical Services Authority on April 6, 2020.
7. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 120175.5 (b) all governmental entities in the county shall take necessary measures within the governmental entity's control to ensure compliance with this Order and to disseminate this Order to venues or locations within the entity's jurisdiction where gatherings may occur.
 8. Health and Safety code section 120220 requires all persons to obey this Order.
 9. Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 120295, violation of this Order is subject to fine, imprisonment, or both.
 10. Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 120275, any person who violates this Order is guilty of a misdemeanor.
 11. Pursuant to section 19 of the California Penal Code, "[e]xcept in cases where a different punishment is prescribed by any law of this state, every offense declared to be a misdemeanor is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months, or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by both.
 12. To the extent necessary, this Order may be enforced by the Sheriff or chiefs of police pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and California Health and Safety Code section 101029.

IS SO ORDERED:

Date: April 14, 2020

Signed:  _____

Kristopher Lyon, MD, FACEP, EMT
Public Health Officer
County of Kern