



# Tuolumne County Health and Human Services Agency

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Director

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**Date:** March 17, 2020

**To:** Organizers of Large Scale Events and Mass Gatherings within Tuolumne County

**From:** Dr. Eric Sergienko, Tuolumne County Interim Health Officer

**Subject:** Health Officer's Order to Cancel, Postpone, or Modify Large Scale Events or Mass Gatherings within Tuolumne County

Currently, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been declared a pandemic by the World Health organization. As of today, there are over 125,000 cases in the world and over 4,000 deaths. In California, there are 198 confirmed cases and four deaths. We can expect that the number of cases to increase significantly should action not being taken to decrease the spread of the disease.

COVID-19 is contained in the droplets that can be sneezed, coughed, or exhaled into the air by infected individuals. There is no currently available treatment. However, transmission of the disease can be done through community mitigation measures that decrease the likelihood of being exposed to the droplets of an infected person. These measures include limiting large scale events and mass gatherings.

As of March 15, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has recommended the following for the next eight weeks:

- Large events and mass gatherings that include 50 people or more should be postponed or canceled.
- Events that include less than 50 people should only be continued if they can be carried out with adherence to guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations, hand hygiene, and social distancing of six feet per person.
- When feasible, organizers could modify events to be virtual.
- This recommendation does not apply to the day to day operation of organizations such as schools, institutes of higher learning, or businesses.

To that end, I ask for your cooperation with the following Health Officer's Order:

I, as Health Officer for the County of Tuolumne, as duly authorized under the Health and Safety Code, Section 120175, am requiring that all event organizers in Tuolumne County, comply with the recommendations put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As such, per this Order:


- All events that have more than 50 participants shall be canceled or postponed to such a time as this Health Officer's Order has lapsed
- All events that may have fewer than 50 participants where it is not feasible to maintain social distances of six feet shall be canceled or postponed to such a time as this Health Officer's Order has lapsed

- Gatherings for those who are at high risk of severe illness, such as those older than 65, those with existing heart or lung disease, and those with diabetes, shall not exceed more than ten participants who are at high risk.
- Issuance of assemblage permits and facility use permits shall be canceled

This order applies to the time frame as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), from today's date, March 17, 2020, until April 30, 2020. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and CDC may recommend further extensions of their proposed end date.

I, as Health Officer for the County of Tuolumne, encourage voluntary compliance with this Health Officer's Order, but both civil and criminal enforcement actions are permitted under the Health and Safety Code.

I ask that event organizers who wish to discuss this, contact the Public Health Department at (209) 533-7401.

  
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Eric Sergienko, MD, MPH  
Health Officer

  
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Date