



Tuolumne County Health and Human Services Agency

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Date: May 13, 2020

To: Health Care Providers, Employers, and Residents Within Tuolumne County

From: Dr. Liza M. Ortiz, Tuolumne County Interim Health Officer

Subject: Health Officer's Order to Screen for Febrile Respiratory Illness and for Ill Residents to Isolate

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Sections 101040, 120175, and 120175.5(b) the Health Officer of the County of Tuolumne orders as follows:

The order is issued as a result of the World Health Organizations declaration of the worldwide pandemic of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. COVID-19 is contained in droplets that can be sneezed, coughed, or exhaled into the air by infected individuals.

As of today, there are over 3.2 million cases and over 233,998 deaths worldwide. In California, there are 50,351 confirmed cases and 2,036 deaths. We can expect that the number of cases to increase significantly should action not being taken to decrease the spread of the disease.

There currently is no available treatment, however, reduced 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 and practicing social distancing. Aggressive containment operations including isolating suspect cases and persons under investigation and quarantining their contacts can limit the spread of the disease, reduce the impacts of the disease on society, and avoid more stringent measures that would cause further detriment to civil society.

COVID-19 testing in Tuolumne County is being conducted at the discretion of health care providers in the community, based on their clinical assessment and the current recommended guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) criteria for disease. Any positive test result shall be reported to the Public Health Department.

Effective on May 13, 2020, the following will be in effect for Tuolumne County.

As Tuolumne County Health Officer, I do hereby order:

- Health Care Providers shall:
 - i. Daily report to the health department/public health branch Health and Human Services Agency all patients seen in their practice with a febrile respiratory illness
 - ii. Provide patient information that will include demographic information, including age, as well as residential address and clinical status, indicate whether rapid point of care testing was performed and their results, indicate if COVID-19 testing was done. Please use the attached Excel spreadsheet if possible and e-mail to health@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

- iii. Direct the patient, if no exclusionary diagnosis is found, to isolate him/herself for ten days after onset of symptoms or three days after cessation of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications
- iv. Follow the additional guidance provided by CDC at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>.
- All Employers shall:
 - i. Daily, at the start of business, screen all employees for febrile respiratory illness using the attached screening tool entitled COVID-19 Screening Checklist for Employers.
 - ii. Retain all screening forms for 14 days after completion and have readily available upon request from the Public Health Department.
 - iii. Exclude from work all employees that report symptoms of febrile respiratory illness for ten days from the day that they are identified as having symptoms.
 - iv. Direct employees excluded from work to isolate at home and notify their healthcare provider. If an employer has questions regarding work exclusion, they are asked to call the public health call center at 209-533-7440.
- All Residents shall:
 - i. Self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
 - ii. Isolate themselves for ten days after onset of signs and symptoms, and only leave their place of residence to seek further medical attention
 - iii. Follow additional guidance provided by CDC at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>
- Upon notification of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Tuolumne County:
 - i. All close contacts of anyone isolated under this order will be placed into 14-day quarantine.

For the purpose of this order:

- Febrile is defined as “related to fever.”
- Febrile respiratory illness is defined as “a new or worsening episode of either cough or shortness of breath, presenting with fever (temperature 38 degrees C or 100.4 degrees F or higher) or chills in the previous 24 hours.”
- Isolation is defined as “separation of sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.”
- Quarantine is defined as “separation and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.”
- Close contact is defined as “anyone who has been within six feet for a period of ten minutes or longer of a person placed in isolation.”
- Social distancing is defined as “maintain a six-foot separation from all persons except for family members.”
- Symptoms of COVID-19:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Or at least two of these symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) may recommend further guidance.

I, as Health Officer for the County of Tuolumne, encourage voluntary compliance with this Health Officer’s Order. However, violation of this order is subject to fine, imprisonments or both (California Health and Safety Code Section 120295.)

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



Liza M. Ortiz, MD, MPH
Health Officer

5/13/2020

Date

COVID-19 Screening Checklist for Employers

Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Purpose: Based on the Febrile Respiratory Illness Health Order that took effect on 03/26/2020, all employers, on a daily basis, are to screen all employees for signs & symptoms of respiratory illness accompanied by fever and COVID-19.

Instructions: ALL employees and government officials entering the building must be asked the following below. Employees who are teleworking must also complete the screening. Please maintain this record for 14 days from completion of this form and have this form available upon request from the Public Health Department.

1. Have you washed your hands or used alcohol-based hand sanitizer on entry?

YES NO – Ask them to do so.

2. Do you have any of the following symptoms?

Feeling feverish Chills New or worsening cough Muscle pain Sore throat
New or worsening shortness of breath or difficulty breathing New loss of taste or smell

- If YES to any, restrict them from entering the building and send person home.*
- If NO to all, proceed to remaining questions.

3. Employee's temperature: _____°F. (If you have a thermometer available)

3A. Does the employee have a fever (temperature 100.4°F or greater) YES NO

- If YES to any, restrict them from entering the building and send person home.*
- If NO, proceed to question #4.

4. Ask the employee the following:

Have you been exposed to any person who, within the past 14 days, was confirmed COVID-19 positive by lab test? YES NO

- If YES, contact your supervisor immediately**
- If NO, proceed to #5

5. Allow entry to building and remind individual to:

Wash their hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer throughout their time in the building.
Not to shake hands with, touch, or hug others during their time in the building.

***The person being sent home, must inform their supervisor and Human Resources that they were sent home and is responsible for following-up with their primary care physician if needed.**

****Supervisors review second page of this document**

Person Performing Screening: _____

Please refer to the definition of essential available from the state of California here: <https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf>

Symptomatic employees should be sent home. If an employee becomes symptomatic at work, they should be sent home immediately.

If an asymptomatic employee of an essential business has had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, and it is possible for them to remain in isolation at home, that is preferred. Workers should be encouraged to work remotely when possible and focus on core business activities. In-person, non-mandatory activities should be delayed until the resumption of normal operations. When continuous remote work is not possible, businesses should enlist strategies to reduce the likelihood of spreading the disease. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, separating staff by off-setting shift hours or days and/or social distancing. These steps can preserve the workforce and allow operations to continue. If the absence of this asymptomatic employee would result in the failure of essential business operations, they should adhere to the following practices prior to and during their work shift:

- **Pre-Screen:** Employers should measure the employee's temperature and assess symptoms prior to them starting work. Ideally, temperature checks should happen before the individual enters the facility.
- **Regular Monitoring:** As long as the employee doesn't have a temperature or symptoms, they should self-monitor under the supervision of their employer's occupational health program.
- **Wear a Mask:** The employee should wear a face mask at all times while in the workplace for 14 days after last exposure. Employers can issue face masks or can approve employees' supplied cloth face coverings in the event of shortages.
- **Social Distance:** The employee should maintain 6 feet and practice social distancing as work duties permit in the workplace.
- **Disinfect and Clean workspaces:** Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment routinely.

If the employee becomes sick during the day, they should be sent home immediately. Surfaces in their workspace should be cleaned and disinfected. Information on persons who had contact with the ill employee during the time the employee had symptoms and 2 days prior to symptoms should be compiled. Others at the facility with close contact within 6 feet of the employee during this time would be considered exposed.

Employers should implement the recommendations in the Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 to help prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. Additional information about identifying critical infrastructure during COVID-19 can be found on the DHS CISA website or the CDC's specific First Responder Guidance page.

If you have further questions, please contact the public health call center at 209-533-7440.