

ORDER OF THE VENTURA COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER
FOR THE CONTROL OF COVID-19
REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS ENTERING OR RESIDING-IN HOMELESS
SHELTERS AND H-2A HOUSING

TEMPERATURE SCREENING, SELF EVALUATION, AND REPORTING FOR COVID-19

Effective Date: SEPTEMBER 18, 2020, 12:00 a.m.

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order may constitute a misdemeanor punishable by fine of up to \$1,000, imprisonment, or both. (Health and Safety Code §§101029, 120295 et seq.) Violators are also subject to civil enforcement actions including fines or civil penalties per violation per day, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and costs.

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency for conditions caused by a novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, and on March 12, 2020, the County of Ventura declared a local health emergency in relation COVID-19 in the community; and

WHEREAS, in the County of Ventura as well as throughout California and the nation, there are insufficient quantities of critical healthcare infrastructure, including hospital beds, ventilators and workers, capable of adequately treating mass numbers of patients at a single time – should the virus spread unchecked; and

WHEREAS, in direct response to the lack of healthcare infrastructure, governments across the nation are taking actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 in order to “flatten the curve” of infection and reduce the numbers of individuals infected at any one time by minimizing situations where the virus can spread; and

WHEREAS, members of vulnerable populations, such as homeless individuals, migrant workers and farmworkers, residing in homeless shelters and H-2A housing, are at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than the general population due to fewer opportunities for: social distancing; selection of associates; self-control over activities of daily living such as sleeping arrangements, meal times and locations; transportation; healthcare access; alternative living arrangements; and

WHEREAS, members of these vulnerable populations may have higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 disease due to underlying health conditions and/or limited access to health care, resulting in delayed medical intervention; and may suffer worse outcomes as a result, including higher risk for death; and outbreaks of COVID-19 in homeless shelters and H-2A farmworker housing have occurred and continue to occur, including in Ventura County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Ventura Health Officer finds: (1) There is an increased risk of COVID-19 among those living in Homeless Shelters and H-2A Housing (defined) and among those providing services in these facilities; (2) That daily symptom screening of individuals and residents in accordance with the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and other public health officials around the world, is essential for rapid identification and isolation of symptomatic individuals; (3) Limiting the number of interactions between individuals during activities of daily living, such as meals, travel, physical and social activities, serves to reduce the potential exposure to other individuals living in these facilities to asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic individuals infected with COVID-19; (4) Notification to the Public Health Department when there is one case of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in the Homeless Shelter or H-2A Housing allows rapid identification and management of outbreaks, reducing the spread of COVID-19; and (5) Distinctions made in this Order are to minimize the spread of COVID-19 that could occur through proximity and duration of contact between individuals

WHEREAS, this Order is intended to reduce transmission of COVID-19 exposure in vulnerable populations residing in Homeless Shelters and H-2A Housing as described herein. All provisions of this Order should be interpreted to effectuate this intent.

ACCORDINGLY, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, AND TITLE 17 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS SECTION 2501, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF VENTURA ORDERS:

1. This Order is effective 12:00 a.m. September 18, 2020, until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the County of Ventura Health Officer ("Health Officer"). This Order applies in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Ventura County ("County").
2. **Homeless Shelters & H-2A Housing Defined.** Homeless Shelter means a supervised public or private facility that provides temporary living accommodations during the night for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. H-2A Housing means housing provided by employers pursuant to Title 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 655, Subpart B "Labor Certification Process for Temporary Agricultural Employment in Range Sheep Herding, Goat Herding, and Production of Livestock Occupations."
3. **Daily symptom screening.** All individuals entering or residing in a Homeless Shelter or H-2A Housing shall be screened for COVID-19 symptoms daily. All individuals shall submit to a temperature screening by the least intrusive method possible, and shall complete a symptom self-evaluation using the symptoms listed in Attachment A, as attached hereto and incorporated by this reference ("Symptoms").
4. **Notification to Homeless Shelter or H-2A Housing.** If through Daily Symptom Screening

an individual or resident has Symptoms including a temperature screening of the individual is 100.0° F or 37.8° C or greater, or subjective fever, or mild to moderate Symptoms related to COVID-19 or other respiratory illness, including sore throat, runny nose, fever, chills, not feeling well, sneezing and coughing, gastro-intestinal symptoms such as soft stool or stomach cramps, and vomiting as listed in Attachment A, then the individual must immediately self-isolate and notify the manager, operator, owner of the facility, or employer.

5. **Notification of Public Health.** The operator, manager or owner of Homeless Shelters, or the employers providing H-2A Housing shall immediately notify the Ventura County Public Health Department when there is one case of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in the Homeless Shelter or H-2A Housing.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE ORDER THE HEALTH OFFICER STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that Homeless Shelters and employers providing H2-A Housing utilize stable groups to reduce potential transmission of COVID-19 in these types of housing. A stable group is a pre-determined cohort of residents who engage in activities together. The intent of a stable group is to reduce the number of individuals residents may come into contact with, and to prevent mixing of larger groups of individuals within the housed population. In assigning individuals to stable groups, facility operators, or employers, should consider issues such as individual needs and schedules, work requirements, psychological and social needs, and personal habits or preferences. Stable groups should contain no more than 14 individuals for residence-based activities such as:

- Travel, such as transportation to work, medical appointments or other activities such as shopping or personal care services;
- Social, educational, physical, and recovery activities at the homeless shelter or H-2A farmworker housing; and
- Meals and dining activities.

This Order is issued as a result of the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 which has infected at least 25 million individuals worldwide, including 11,929 cases and 142 deaths in the County, and is implicated in over 800,000 worldwide deaths.

This Order is issued based on evidence of continuing 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 as currently known and available to protect the public from the risk of spread of or exposure to COVID-19.

This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference: the March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom; the March 12, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency based on an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of novel COVID-19 in the County; the March 17, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors ratifying the County Declaration of Local Health Emergency and

Proclamation of Emergency regarding COVID-19; the guidance issued on March 11, 2020 by the California Department of Public Health regarding large gatherings of 250 people or more; Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20 of March 12, 2020 preparing the State to commandeer hotels and other places of temporary residence, medical facilities, and other facilities that are suitable as places of temporary residence or medical facilities as necessary for quarantining, isolating or treating individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or who have had a high-risk exposure and are thought to be in the incubation period; the March 13, 2020 Presidential Declaration of a National Emergency due to the national impacts of COVID-19; the guidance issued on March 15, 2020 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health, and other public health officials through the United States and around the world recommending the cancellation of gatherings involving more than fifty (50) or more persons in a single space at the same time; the March 16, 2020 order of the State Public Health Officer prohibiting all gatherings with expected presence above ten (10) individuals; and Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20 of March 19, 2020 ordering all persons to stay at home to protect the health and well-being of all Californians and to establish consistency across the state in order to slow the spread of COVID-19; the March 22, 2020, Presidential Declaration of a Major Disaster in California beginning on January 20, 2020 under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Incident DR-4482; Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-60-20 of May 4, 2020 to allow reopening of lower-risk businesses and spaces ("Stage Two"), and thereafter to allow reopening of higher-risk businesses and spaces ("Stage Three"), and directing the State Public Health Officer to establish criteria and procedures to determine whether and how particular local jurisdictions may implement public health measures that depart from the statewide directives; the July 13, 2020 State Public Health Officer Order; and the August 28, 2020 State Public Health Officer Order called California's Plan for Reducing COVID-19 and Adjusting Permitted Sector Activities to Keep Californians Healthy and Safe.

This Order is made in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, including but not limited to: Health and Safety Code sections 101040 and 120175; Health and Safety Code sections 101030 et seq., 120100 et seq.; and Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations section 2501.

If any provision of this Order or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Order, 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 this Order are severable.

The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes a threat to public health. Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code sections 101029 and 120295, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 101029, "the sheriff of each county, or city and county, may enforce within the county, or the city and county, all orders of the local health officer issued for the purpose of preventing the spread of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease. Every peace officer of every political subdivision of the county, or city and county, may enforce within the area subject to his or her jurisdiction all orders of the local health officer issued for the purpose of preventing the spread of any contagious,

infectious, or communicable disease. This section is not a limitation on the authority of peace officers or public officers to enforce orders of the local health officer. When deciding whether to request this assistance in enforcement of its orders, the local health officer may consider whether it would be necessary to advise the enforcement agency of any measures that should be taken to prevent infection of the enforcement officers."

Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County Public Health Department; (2) posted on the County's COVID-19 website: www.venturacountyrecovers.org; and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert Levin, M.D.", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert Levin, M.D.
Health Officer
Ventura County Public Health Department

Attachment A

COVID-19 SELF-EVALUATION

Ventura County's Health Officer Order requires individuals entering or residing in Homeless Shelters, and H2A Housing, to conduct a self-evaluation for COVID-19 symptoms daily and to immediately self-isolate and notify the manager, operator or owner of the facility, or employer, if you have any of these symptoms:

**Mild to Moderate Symptoms Related to or
Other Respiratory Illness such as:**

Sore Throat

Runny Nose

Fever

Chills

Not Feeling Well

Sneezing

Coughing

New loss of smell and/or taste

Gastro-Intestinal symptoms such as:

Soft Stool

Stomach Cramps

Vomiting

**Immediately self-isolate and notify the manager, owner, operator,
or employer of your Homeless Shelter or H-2A Housing if you
have these symptoms**

For any questions or concerns about compliance with this order, please call VCPH at (805) 981-5201