

## **DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY REGARDING THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

**WHEREAS**, Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes a local health officer to declare a local health emergency in the health officer's jurisdiction, or any part thereof, when the health officer determines that there is an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, chemical agent, noncommunicable biological agent, toxin, or radioactive agent; and

**WHEREAS**, a local health emergency declared by a local health officer pursuant to Section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code shall not remain in effect after seven days from the date of this proclamation unless it has been ratified by the governing authority of the local jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Health Officer of the County of San Mateo makes the following findings:

A novel coronavirus (named "COVID-19" by the World Health Organization) was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has stated that COVID-19 is a serious public health threat, based on current information. Cases of COVID-19 have been diagnosed in the United States, primarily in individuals who have traveled to other countries, but there have been cases identified of "community spread" of COVID-19 involving individuals who have not traveled overseas and who have no known connections to overseas travel. In part, the virus is considered a very serious health threat because much is unknown. The exact modes of transmission, the factors facilitating human-to-human transmission, the extent of asymptomatic viral shedding, the groups most at risk of serious illness, the attack rate, and the case fatality rate all remain active areas of investigation.

The best information to date suggests that the virus is spread between people primarily via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and infected individuals have experienced a range of outcomes, from mild sickness to severe illness and death. The CDC believes at this time that symptoms appear two to fourteen days after exposure. Currently, there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19.

The number of reported cases of COVID-19 has escalated dramatically over a short period of time. As of March 1, 2020, the World Health Organization has reported 87,137 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 79,968 cases in China and the remaining 7,169 cases in 58 other countries. There have been 2,873 deaths in China due to COVID-19, and another 104 deaths in other countries.

According to the CDC, as of March 2, 2020, there have been 43 cases of COVID-19 detected, tested and confirmed in the United States (not including 48 individuals who

returned to the United States from overseas on State Department-chartered flights). The World Health Organization has declared the outbreak to be a global health emergency.

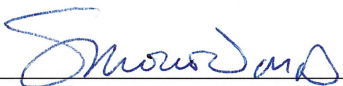
Actions are being taken to protect public health and limit the spread of COVID-19 in the United States. The CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to China, Iran, South Korea, and Italy. Moreover, media accounts report that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is preparing for the possibility that the President may make an emergency declaration at the federal level related to COVID-19.

Cases of COVID-19 have been identified in San Mateo County, as well as in other Bay Area counties and other counties, including the County of Santa Clara, the County of Alameda, the County of Solano, and the City and County of San Francisco, and these public entities have made declarations of local emergency and declarations of local health emergency.

**WHEREAS**, the Health Officer of the County of San Mateo does hereby find that there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of COVID-19 in San Mateo County; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Health Officer of the County of San Mateo hereby declares that a local health emergency now exists in the County of San Mateo.

Date: 3/3/20  
Time: 1045

  
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Issued by: Scott Morrow, MD  
Health Officer, County of San Mateo