

**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, pursuant to the authority of Health and Safety Code section 101080, the Health Officer of the County of San Luis Obispo makes the following findings:

1. A novel coronavirus named " COVID-19" by the World Health Organization ("WHO") was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019.
2. 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.
3. As of March 12, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") reported 1,323 cases of COVID- 19 in the United States and the California Department of Public Health has reported 198 cases of the virus within the State of California.
4. On March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to outbreaks of COVID-19 within the state.
5. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic, presently affecting six continents where sustained transmission of the virus has infected more than 120,000 people and killed more than 4,300 worldwide.
6. The number of reported cases of COVID-19 has escalated dramatically over a short period of time; for instance, as of March 12, 2020, the World Health Organization

reported 127,863 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide, with 80,932 cases in China and the remaining 46,931 cases in 116 other countries; there have been 3,169 deaths in mainland China due to COVID-19, and another 1,549 deaths in other countries (4718 worldwide).

7. Cases of COVID-19 have been identified in the following California counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Diego, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sacramento, Solano, and the City and County of San Francisco. Each of these counties have made declarations of local health emergency or proclamations of local emergency.

8. COVID-19 is considered a very serious health threat because much is unknown about it, e.g., 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.

9. The best information to date suggests that: (1) the virus is spread between people primarily via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; (2) 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; (3) the CDC believes that symptoms appear two to fourteen days after exposure.

10. Currently, there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19.

11. In order to protect public health and limit the spread of COVID-19 within the United States, the CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to countries with sustained transmission.

12. On March 12, 2020, the Governor of the State of California issued an Executive Order to cancel or postpone non-essential mass gatherings that bring people together in a single room or single space at the same time.

NOW, THEREFORE, based on all of the foregoing information, I, Penny Borenstein, County Health Officer, determine that an imminent and proximate threat to the public health of the citizens of the County of San Luis Obispo presently exists due to the imminent

and likely introduction of COVID-19 within the county, a highly contagious, infectious, communicable disease and hereby declare a local health emergency within the County of San Luis Obispo pursuant to the authority granted by section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code.

Date: 03-13-2020

Time: 10:00 am

  
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PENNY BORENSTEIN, M.D.  
County Health Officer