

**DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY
BY THE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER AND PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR
FOR THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
AND
TO ISSUE HEALTH ORDERS AS APPROPRIATE AND NEEDED**

WHEREAS, Section 101040 of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes the local health officer to take any preventative measure that may be necessary to protect and preserve public health from any public hazard during an emergency; and

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

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus, COVID-19, causes infectious disease and was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath; outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and in some cases death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the virus to be a very serious public health threat; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency for conditions caused by COVID-19; and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor Newsom and California Public Health state officials recommended that non-essential gatherings should be postponed or cancelled across the state at least until the end of March, in order to implement social distancing guidelines intended to protect all individuals, particularly those who are at higher risk for severe illness for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of March 12, 2020 there were 198 confirmed COVID-19 cases in California of which 24 cases are from repatriation flights and 4 deaths; and

WHEREAS, the local health officer finds that based on the foregoing and out of abundance of caution, there is an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of COVID-19 in the County of Santa Barbara and a need to protect those most at risk.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER HEREBY DECLARES that a local health emergency exists in the County of Santa Barbara due to an imminent and proximate threat to the public health, within the meaning of Section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code, by the introduction of COVID-19 in the County of Santa Barbara.

FURTHER, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Effective immediately until March 30, 2020, consistent with the Governor's social distancing guidance, the Health Officer is mandating cancellation or postponement of nonessential gatherings of 250 or more people, and small gatherings shall include six (6) foot distancing between participants particularly those at high risk for severe illness of COVID-19.
2. This order applies in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County.
3. Example of essential events this health order does not apply to: regular school classes, work, essential services, congregant living situations including dormitories and homeless encampments, essential public transportation, airport travel, shopping at a store or mall, operations of federal or state courts, and public meetings of local legislative bodies, including but not limited to: the Board of Supervisors, City Councils, School Districts, and other local agencies. Specific guidance can be found in the attached document and at PublicHealthSBC.org.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local health emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the Health Officer shall be those prescribed by state law, including but not limited to the provisions of 101085 of the Health and Safety Code, and by pertinent ordinances and resolutions of this County.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 101080 the local health emergency shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven (7) days unless it has been ratified by the Board of Supervisors and upon termination of the State Emergency, shall be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors, at least every 30 days until the local health emergency is terminated.

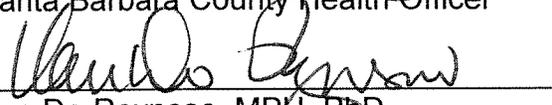
This Declaration may be signed in counterparts.



Henning Ansorg, MD
Santa Barbara County Health Officer

3/12/2020

Date



Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD
Santa Barbara County Public Health Director

3/12/2020

Date