



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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### Public Health Division

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

**WHEREAS**, Health and Safety Code 101080 authorizes a local health officer to declare a local health emergency in the health officer's jurisdiction, or any part thereof, whenever the Health Officer reasonably determines that 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**, the local health emergency shall not remain in effect after seven days from the date of this declaration unless it has been ratified by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Health Officer of the County of Santa Cruz makes the following findings:

1. A severe acute respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China ("China"), in December 2019. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") considers the virus to be a very serious public health threat, based on current information. In part, the virus is considered a serious public 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, but are poorly characterized at this time. 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. Although the majority of individuals infected with COVID-19 recover from the disease without special treatment, approximately 1 in 6 may become seriously ill.
2. The number of reported cases of COVID-19 has escalated dramatically over a short period of time and have spread worldwide. To date, there are over 90,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and over 3,000 deaths from COVID-19. Cases of COVID-19, though concentrated in China, have been reported on every continent except Antarctica.. Transmission from asymptomatic individuals has been documented. Case numbers in the United States are increasing, including eight deaths. Community spread is occurring. Our neighboring county of Santa Clara is one of two areas of COVID-19 outbreak in the United States. Many residents of Santa Cruz County work in Santa Clara County and travel to and from that County on a daily

basis. The World Health Organization has declared the outbreak to be a global health emergency. The U.S. Department of Public Health and Human Services has declared a Public Health Emergency for the United States.

3. 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 and Iran, and the U.S. Department of State advises Americans not to travel to either of those countries. Effective February 2, 2020, all travelers returning to the United States who have been in Hubei province within the last 14 days are being quarantined; those returning from other provinces in China are being asked to self-quarantine with monitoring and follow up by local health departments. In addition, hundreds of passengers from the Diamond Princess cruise ship have been flown to Travis Air Force Base for mandatory quarantine, with confirmed cases transferred to Bay Area hospitals.
4. Although there have been no confirmed cases in Santa Cruz County, public health staff have been busy monitoring case contacts and returning travelers. . The Public Health Division has been working diligently with federal, state, regional and local partners to ensure our readiness to respond to COVID-19. The Health Services Agency is working with other County departments as well as community partners to prepare for COVID-19 in Santa Cruz County.

**WHEREAS**, the CDC has issued guidance to local and State health departments, including the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency, Public Health Division, concerning risk assessment and public health management of persons with potential exposure to COVID-19. These guidelines require the Health Services Agency to make extraordinary efforts to monitor ongoing communicable disease threats and prepare for management of individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Health Officer of the County of Santa Cruz hereby declares that as of March 4, 2020 a local health emergency exists in the County of Santa Cruz.

Date: 3/4/20

Time: 0900

Issued By:

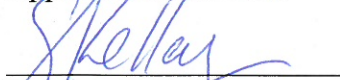


Gail Newel, MD

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Health Services Agency, Public Health Division

Approved as to Form:



Siobhan Kelley

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