DATE: March 19, 2020

TO: Organizers of Large Scale Events and Mass Gatherings within Madera County

FROM: Dr. Eric Sergienko, Madera County Health Officer

RE: Health Officer’s Order to Cancel, Postpone, or Modify Large Scale Events or Mass Gatherings, and to Close All Bars, Nightclubs, Gyms, and Theaters, and to Modify Dining Facilities Services within Madera County

Currently, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been declared a pandemic by the World Health organization. As of today, there are over 231,000 cases in the world and over 9,300 deaths. In California, there are 917 confirmed cases and seventeen deaths. We can expect that the number of cases to increase significantly should action not being taken to decrease the spread of the disease.

COVID-19 is contained in the droplets that can be sneezed, coughed, or exhaled into the air by infected individuals. There is currently no available treatment. However, transmission of the disease can be better contained through community mitigation measures that decrease the likelihood of being exposed to the droplets of an infected person. These measures include limiting large scale events and mass gatherings.

As of March 19th, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has recommended the following for the next eight weeks:

- Large events and mass gathering that include 50 people or more should be postponed or canceled.
- Events that include less than 50 people should only be continued if they can be carried out with adherence to guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations, hand hygiene, and social distancing of six feet per person.
- When feasible, organizers should modify events to be virtual.
- This recommendation does not apply to the day to day operations of organizations such as schools, institutes of higher learning, or business.

Further, the State Health Officer, Dr. Sonia Angell, has recommended in guidance released by the California Department Public Health (CDPH) on March 16, 2020 and available at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID
that bars, wineries, breweries and pubs; and gyms, health clubs, and theaters should be closed, and that retail food service and other related services venues should be open only to drive through or other pick-up/delivery options.

To that end, I ask for your cooperation with the following Health Officer's Order:

I, as Health Officer for the County of Madera, as duly authorized under the Health and Safety Code, Section 120175, am requiring that all event organizers in Madera County, comply with the recommendations put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As such, per this Order:

- All events and gatherings that have more than 50 participants shall be canceled or postponed to such a time as this Health Officer’s Order has lapsed.

- All events and gatherings that may have fewer than 50 participants where it is not feasible to maintain social distances of six feet shall be canceled or postponed to such a time as this Health Officer’s Order has lapsed.

- All events and gatherings for those who are at high risk of severe illness, such as those older than 60, those with existing heart or lung disease, and those with diabetes, shall not exceed more than ten participants who are at high risk.

- Issuance of assemblage permits and facility use permits shall be canceled.

- All Bars, Wineries, Breweries, and Pubs shall be closed as per the CDPH guidance dated March 16, 2020

- All Gyms, Health Clubs, and Theaters shall be closed as per the CDPH guidance dated March 16, 2020

- All Retail Food Service and other Related Services shall be open only to drive through or other pick up/delivery services as per the CDPH guidance dated March 16, 2020
This Order applies to the time frame as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), from today’s date, March 19, 2020, until April 30, 2020. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and CDC may recommend further extensions of their proposed end date.

I, as Health Officer for the County of Madera, encourage voluntary compliance with this Health Officer's Order, but both civil and criminal enforcement actions are permitted under the Health and Safety Code.

I ask that event organizers who wish to discuss this, contact the Public Health Department at (559) 675-7893.

Eric Sergienko, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Date