



**DATE:** April 30, 2020

**TO:** Healthcare Providers, Employees and Residents

**FROM:** Dr. Simon P. Paul, Madera County Health Officer

**RE:** Extension of Health Officer’s March 19, 2020 Order to Monitor, Test, and Treat Febrile Respiratory Illness for Health Care Providers, Employers, Residents

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Sections 101040, 120175, and 120175.5(b) the Health Officer of the County of Madera orders as follows:

1. On March 19, 2020, this Office issued an “Order to Monitor, Test, and Treat Febrile Respiratory Illness for Health Care Providers, Employees, and Residents.” This Order hereby extends that initial Order in all respects until Sunday, May 31, 2020.
2. The initial Order and this Extension are issued as a result of the World Health Organizations declaration of the worldwide pandemic of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. COVID-19 is contained in the droplets that can be sneezed, coughed, or exhaled into the air by infected individuals.
3. There currently is no available treatment; however, transmission of the disease can be lessened 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, and practicing social distancing. Aggressive containment operations including isolating suspect cases and persons under investigation and quarantining their contacts can limit the spread of the disease, reduce the impacts of the disease on the society, and avoid more stringent measures that would cause further detriment to civil society.
4. Within the public health system, every person who meets the Center for Disease Control (CDC) criteria for disease within Madera County has been and will be tested. However, both locally and nationally there is limited testing capabilities due to availability and number of laboratory test kits and specimen collection kits.



5. As initiated at 5:00 pm, Thursday, March 19, 2020, and now continuing until Sunday, May 31, 2020, the following will remain in effect for Madera County.

a. Health Care Providers shall:

- i. On a daily basis report to the health department/public health branch Health and Human Services Agency all patients seen in their practice with a febrile respiratory illness.
- ii. The patient information will include demographic information, including age, as well as residential address and clinical status, indicate whether rapid point of care testing was performed and their results, indicate if COVID-19 testing was done.
- iii. Direct the patient, if no exclusionary diagnosis is found, to isolate him/herself for seven days after onset of symptoms or three days after cessation of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND to notify all close contacts to quarantine themselves for 14 days from the last known contact with the patient.

b. All Employers shall:

- i. On a daily basis, while conducting business, screen all employees for febrile respiratory illness.
- ii. Exclude from work all employees that report symptoms of respiratory illness for seven days from the day that they are identified as having symptoms.
- iii. Direct employees excluded from work to isolate at home AND to notify their close contacts to quarantine.

c. All Residents shall:

- i. Self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- ii. Isolate themselves if they have signs and symptoms and should they not require further medical attention for seven days after onset of symptoms.

6. For the purpose of this order:

- a. Febrile respiratory illness is defined as “a new or worsening episode of either cough or shortness of breath, presenting with fever (temperature 38 degrees C or 100.4 degrees F or higher) or chills in the previous 24 hours.”

- b. Isolation is defined as “separation of sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.”
- c. Quarantine is defined as “separation and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.”
- d. Social distancing is defined as “maintain a six-foot separation from all persons except for family members.”
- e. Symptoms of COVID-19:
  - i. Fever
  - ii. Cough
  - iii. Shortness of breath

7. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) may recommend further guidance.

I, as Health Officer for the County of Madera, encourage voluntary compliance with this Health Officer’s Order. However, violation of this Order is subject to fine, imprisonment or both (California Health and Safety Code Section 120295.)



4/30/2020

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Simon P. Paul, M.D.  
Health Officer

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Date