

**ORDER OF THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER
IMPLEMENTING THE DIRECTIVES OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICER REGARDING GATHERINGS**

DATE OF ORDER: OCTOBER 13, 2020

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101470, 101475, 101085, 120175, 120200, 120210 AND 120215, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN ("HEALTH OFFICER") ORDERS:

1. On August 28, 2020, the State Public Health Officer issued an order entitled *California's Plan for Reducing COVID-19 and Adjusting Permitted Sector Activities to Keep Californians Health and Safe*, hereinafter "**Blueprint**", a four-tiered strategy to address the COVID-19 epidemic in California, which repealed the State Public Health Order of July 13, 2020. As the State progresses through the tiers in the Blueprint the State Public Health Officer has continued to issue new guidance and revisions to previously issued guidance.
2. On August 31, 2020, the County Health Officer issued an order entitled *Order of the San Joaquin County Public Health Officer Implementing the August 28, 2020, Directives of the Governor of California and the California State Public Health Officer*. That order required all residents of the County to comply with the Blueprint documents and existing guidance. It also prohibited public or private gatherings with more than one household or living unit, except for the limited purpose of engaging in activities permitted.
3. On May 25, 2020, in an effort to balance First Amendment interests with public health, the State Public Health Officer created an exception to the prohibition against mass gatherings for faith-based services, cultural ceremonies, and protests. Under the Blueprint, those types of gatherings are now permitted indoors in counties in Substantial (red), Moderate (orange), and Minimal (yellow) tiers, subject to certain restrictions in those counties. State public health directives also permit in-person outdoor faith-based services or protests as long as face coverings are worn and physical distancing of six (6) feet between persons or groups of persons from different households is maintained at all times.
4. On October 9, 2020, the State Public Health Officer issued revisions to the guidance on private gatherings. The State's mandatory requirements for private gatherings are:
 - a. May not include members of more than three (3) households.
 - b. All gatherings must be held outside. Gatherings may occur in outdoor spaces that are covered by umbrellas, canopies, awnings, roofs, and other shade structures provided that at least three sides of the space

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(or 75%) are open to the outdoors.

- c. A gathering of members from no more than three (3) households is permitted in a public park or other outdoor space, even if unrelated gatherings of other groups with members from up to three (3) households are also occurring in the same park or other outdoor space. If multiple such gatherings are occurring, mixing between group gatherings is not allowed. Additionally, multiple gatherings of members of three (3) households cannot be jointly organized or coordinated to occur in the same public park or other outdoor space at the same time – this would constitute a gathering exceeding the permitted size.
 - d. Anyone with any COVID-19-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, night sweats, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, tiredness, muscle or body aches, headaches, confusion, or loss of sense of taste/smell), must stay home and not come into contact with anyone outside their household.
 - e. For any gatherings permitted under this guidance, the space must be large enough so that everyone at a gathering can maintain at least a 6-foot physical distance from others not from their own household at all times.
 - f. Seating must provide at least 6 feet of distance (in all directions—front-to-back and side-to-side) between different households.
 - g. When gathering, face coverings must be worn in accordance with the CDPH Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings (PDF), unless an exemption is applicable.
 - h. People at gatherings may remove their face coverings briefly to eat or drink as long as they stay at least 6 feet away from everyone outside their own household, and put their face covering back on as soon as they are done eating or drinking.
 - i. Gatherings should be two hours or less. The longer the duration, the higher the risk of transmission.
5. To the extent that any prior order or part of an order issued by the San Joaquin County Public Health Officer prohibited gatherings, those parts are superseded by this Order and all residents are hereby ordered to comply with the directive of the State Public Health Officer. The requirements can be found in the CDPH Guidance for the Prevention of COVID-19 Transmission for Gatherings located here: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/CDPH-Guidance-for-the-Prevention-of-COVID-19-Transmission-for-Gatherings-10-09.aspx>
 6. There continue to be infections and death rates in San Joaquin County that necessitate

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a carefully planned and managed response as the California economy is reopened. San Joaquin County has experienced **20,946** cases and **476** deaths from COVID-19 since the appearance of the virus in San Joaquin County.

7. This Order is issued in accordance with the March 4, 2020, Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom and Executive Orders N-25-20, N-33-20, and N-60-20; the Public Health Orders of the State Public Health Officer of March 19, 2020, May 7, 2020, July 13, 2020, and August 28, 2020; the Declaration of Local Health Emergency issued by the Health Officer on March 12, 2020, and the March 17, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Joaquin Ratifying the Declaration of Local Health Emergency; and the order of the County Public Health Officer of August 31, 2020.
8. This Order shall become effective immediately and will continue to be in effect until the Health Officer rescinds it in writing.
9. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County Administration Building at 44 N. San Joaquin, Stockton 95202, first floor; (2) posted on the San Joaquin County Home page (sjgov.org) and COVID-19 webpage (sjready.org/events/covid19/); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.
10. If any provision of this Order or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Maggie Park, M.D.
San Joaquin
County Public
Health Officer

Dated: October 13,
2020

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