



# County of Santa Cruz

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

## PRESS RELEASE

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### HEALTH OFFICER EXTENDS SHELTER-IN-PLACE

Santa Cruz County Health Officer Dr. Gail Newel on Tuesday replaced and extended the County's Shelter-in-Place order through midnight on May 3, 2020, continuing to allow travel only for essential purposes as defined in the order.

The extension mirrors joint action taken earlier Tuesday by a group of six Bay Area health officers acting in concert. However, some aspects of the order differ from the Bay Area order. The order will be available online at [www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus).

“My first priority is to protect the life and safety of Santa Cruz County residents, and we have some early indications that the Shelter-in-Place order is helping reduce transmission of the COVID-19 virus,” Newel said. “I expect the weeks ahead will be challenging, and it is imperative that we not let down our guard as we work together to reduce the impacts from this disease.”

The new order replaces an earlier local order set to expire April 7. Santa Cruz County has 49 confirmed cases of COVID-19, resulting in one death.

Under California Health and Safety Code § 120295, failing to comply with a Health Officer's order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.