



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Public Health Division

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER No. C19-10

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ DIRECTING ALL LABORATORIES CONDUCTING COVID-19 DIAGNOSTIC TESTS TO REPORT COVID-19 TEST INFORMATION – INCLUDING POSITIVE, NEGATIVE, AND INCONCLUSIVE TEST RESULTS – TO LOCAL AND STATE PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES.

DATE OF ORDER: March 26, 2020

Please read this order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code § 120295, *et seq.*)

Summary: The virus that causes Coronavirus 2019 Disease (“COVID-19”) is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be monitored and slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect all members of the community and the Bay Area region, especially our members most vulnerable to the virus and health care providers, this Order requires that all Laboratories conducting COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests comply with mandated Reporting Requirements as defined below. Reporting Requirements include, but are not limited to, promptly reporting **all** individual positive, negative, and inconclusive test results electronically to the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) and, in limited cases where electronic reporting is not possible, to the County of Santa Cruz Public Health Division, Communicable Disease Unit.

This order begins at 12:01 a.m. on March 26, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:

1. The intent of this Order is to ensure that any Laboratory conducting Diagnostic Tests adheres to Reporting Requirements established by the Health Officer as those initially capitalized terms are defined in Section 4 and to ensure that complete Diagnostic Test data are promptly shared with the individuals who provide the test samples, their health care providers, if any, and with public health officials, using the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (“CalREDIE”) system.
2. Every Laboratory that generates any test result that was taken from a resident of the County of Santa Cruz (“County”) or was collected or processed in the County from a Diagnostic Test must fully and timely comply with all Reporting Requirements.
3. Within twenty-four hour of receiving Diagnostic test results, Laboratories must report those results to: (1) the tested individual’s primary care provider who ordered the test, if any, and other authorized recipients; and (2) public health officials via the CalREDIE system in accordance with all Reporting Requirements.
4. Definitions.

For purposes this Order, the following terms will have the meaning given below.

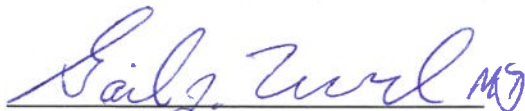
a. “Reporting Requirements” means:

- i. Reporting all positive, negative, and inconclusive Diagnostic Test results in accordance with this Order;
- ii. Adhering to any and all CDPH reporting and notification requirements for Laboratories conducting Diagnostic Tests, including, without limitation: notification requirements of Chapter 17 of the California Code of Regulations section 2505; the March 9, 2020 CDPH Letter to Laboratory Directors and Managers, attached to this Order as Exhibit A; and the March 9, 2020 CDPH Reportable Conditions: Notification by Laboratories document attached to this Order as Exhibit B, except:
 1. Where a Laboratory promptly submits Diagnostic Test results via electronic laboratory reporting to CalREDIE, no further reporting is required. Where a Laboratory is unable to report electronically, it must temporarily report to Disease Prevention and Control Program via confidential facsimile or telephone;
- iii. Reporting the date the specimen was obtained, the patient identification number, the specimen accession number or other unique specimen identifier, the specimen site, the diagnosis codes, the Laboratory findings for the test performed, and the date that the Laboratory findings were identified;
- iv. If Provided to the Laboratory, the Laboratory shall report in all test requisitions the name, gender, address including ZIP Code, telephone

Essential Travel (the latter being known as the “Shelter in Place Order”), and guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health, as each of them have been and may be supplemented.

8. Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and the Chief of Police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order. The violation of any provision of this Order, including any law or regulation cited in this Order, constitutes an imminent threat and creates an immediate menace to public health and may lead to enforcement measures or referral to the relevant enforcement authorities.
9. This Order shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. on March 26, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.
10. The County must promptly provide copies of this Order as follows: (1) by posting on the County Health Services Agency’s website (www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus); (2) by posting a copy in front of the main County offices at 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz CA 95060; and (3) by providing to any member of the public requesting a copy. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any Laboratory that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy.
11. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then 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.

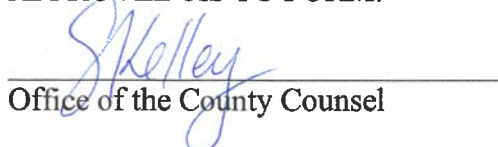
IT IS SO ORDERED:



Gail Newel, MD MPH
Health Officer of the
County of Santa Cruz

Dated: March 25, 2020

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the County Counsel