

County of Santa Clara

Department of Environmental Health

1555 Berger Drive, Suite 300
San Jose, CA 95112-2716
(408)918-3400 FAX (408)298-6261
www.EHinfo.org



March 13, 2020

Re: Health Officer Order Related to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Department of Environmental Health Notice to Food Facilities

Dear Permit Holder:

Please be aware that on March 13, 2020, the Santa Clara County Health Officer issued the attached Order (“Health Officer Order”), which applies to all restaurants, bars, cafeterias, and other food facilities operating in confined indoor or confined outdoor spaces in Santa Clara County. The Health Officer Order applies to both the normal operations at these facilities, as well as special events or gatherings. The restrictions do not apply to grocery stores or certified farmers’ markets.

The Health Officer Order imposes a **mandatory moratorium on all gatherings of more than 100 persons (including employees)** in these and other facilities.

In addition, the Health Officer Order imposes a **conditional moratorium on all gatherings of between 35 and 100 persons (including employees)**. The Santa Clara County Public Health Department strongly recommends the cancelation or postponement of all gatherings and events with less than 100 persons. Gatherings or events of between 35 and 100 persons are only permitted if the host implements each of the COVID-19 risk mitigation measures specified in the Health Officer Order, including:

1. Hosting the event in a space that accommodates social distancing by enabling all attendees to stand or sit at least six feet apart;
2. Providing proper hand hygiene and sanitation material;
3. As applicable, alerting prospective attendees at least 24 hours prior to the gathering that gatherings pose a heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission, and that older adults and individuals with existing health conditions are at particularly serious risk and should not attend;
4. As applicable, allowing prospective attendees to cancel at no cost; and
5. Cleaning and sanitizing surfaces before, during, and after normal operations and special events.

Please see that attached Health Office Order for details of these and other restrictions and requirements that may apply to your operation. If your food facility is subject to the Order you must: (1) cap attendance at 100 persons, and (2) comply with the specified requirements when hosting between 35 and 100 persons.

Board of Supervisors: Cindy Chavez, Mike Wasserman, Dave Cortese, Susan Ellenberg, S. Joseph Simitian
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith

These restrictions are in effect from **12:00 am on March 14, 2020** and will continue to be in effect until 11:59 pm on April 4, 2020. These restrictions may be modified or extended and new ones imposed. Visit the Santa Clara County Public Health Department website for up to date information and requirements: <http://sccphd.org/coronavirus>

As a business that serves food and/or beverages, the County requires your assistance to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community. The primary way that the virus spreads is by respiratory droplets (e.g. when someone coughs) or when a person touches a contaminated surface or object and then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth. In these ways, the virus could spread from one employee to another, from an employee to a patron, or from a patron to an employee.

We ask that you review the attached Health Officer Order and attached Notice to Food Facilities and ***promptly*** implement the appropriate restrictions and recommendations for your food service operation. If a gathering is necessary for essential functions and does not exceed the mandatory moratorium threshold (more than 100 persons), you are responsible for taking all reasonable measures to stop anyone who is sick with fever or respiratory symptoms from attending and mitigating circumstances that may spread the virus. Modified services such as “non-contact delivery” options may prove beneficial to your operation.

In addition, you are responsible for taking all reasonable measures to ensure that employees who are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 do not work. It is important for employees to understand that they need to do their part to keep from being infected so that they can prevent inadvertently transmitting the virus to others.

For more COVID-19 information, visit the SCC Public Health Department website at <http://sccphd.org/coronavirus>. For the latest information as it relates to food facility operations during this order visit our website at www.EHinfo.org. Please send specific questions related to food service operations and the attached guidelines to dehweb@cep.sccgov.org. For additional updates, follow our Facebook at @cepascc.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Respectfully,



George Han, MD, MPH
Deputy Health Officer
Public Health Department



Michael Balliet, CHMM, REHS, REPA
Director
Department of Environmental Health

enclosure: Health Officer Order Imposing Moratorium on Gatherings
Department of Environmental Health Notice to Food Facilities