

**STAY WELL VC**  
**Safely Reopening Ventura County**

**HEALTH OFFICER ORDER**  
**COUNTY OF VENTURA**

**FOR CONTROL OF COVID-19 WITHIN THE COUNTY OF VENTURA**

**Effective Date: May 29, 2020, 11:59 p.m.**

**Please read this Order carefully.** This Order issued by the Ventura County Health Officer shall become effective at 11:59 p.m. on May 29, 2020. At that time, all current Orders of the Ventura County Health Officer shall expire and no longer be of any force or effect, except any and all prior violations of the previous orders remain prosecutable, criminally or civilly. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 120295 et seq., violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085 AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF VENTURA ORDERS:**

1. **Admittance to Long-Term Care Facilities.** Long-Term Care Facilities may not refuse to admit any person who has been diagnosed with or treated for COVID-19 after that person has been discharged from a health care facility and approved for admittance to a Long-Term Care Facility by the Ventura County Public Health Department.

a. For purposes of this Order, “Long-Term Care Facility” means a long-term care facility, skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, congregate living health facility, nursing facility, hospice facility, residential care facility for the elderly, residential facility, or community care facility as defined in Health and Safety Code sections 1250, 1502, 1503.5 and 1569, and regulations promulgated thereunder, as they may be amended from time to time.

2. **Hospitals and Long-Term Care Facilities.** The County Health Officer recognizes the authority of the guidance documents “Hospital Holding Unit Guidance for COVID-19” and “Long-Term Care Facility Guidance for Preventing and Managing COVID-19” (the current versions of which are available at [www.vcemergency.com](http://www.vcemergency.com)) and strongly advises all hospitals and Long-Term Care Facilities to comply with the guidance.

3. **Businesses must establish, implement and enforce COVID-19 prevention plans.** Businesses, with the exception of businesses operated from home, must establish, implement and enforce a site-specific prevention plan in accordance with the State of California COVID-19 industry Guidance and associated checklist found at <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/>. Prior to reopening, businesses must register and attest to their preparedness for safely reopening at [vcreopen.com](http://vcreopen.com). Businesses that were operating under a previous order must also register and attest to their adherence to state guidelines.

As a condition of operation, each business must post a written notice explaining how it will comply with Social Distancing Requirements in conspicuous places where it can easily be seen by employees and patrons of the business facility. The written posting shall identify by name and telephone number the County COVID-19 Compliance Hotline where compliance related questions or complaints may be reported by employees and patrons.

Further, businesses, as a condition of operation, shall admit without delay any officer, employee or agent of the County of Ventura or local city to their business facilities for the purposes of inspection for monitoring and compliance. The failure to cooperate with such inspectors, or repeated and confirmed violations of COVID-19 prevention requirements, may lead to issuance of a business-specific closure order by the County Health Officer.

4. **Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies.**

a. The California Department of Public Health directed on May 25, 2020, that upon a county public health department's approval, in-person attendance at religious services or cultural ceremonies is authorized, but is limited to 25 percent of building capacity, or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is fewer.

b. In accordance with the California Department of Public Health's direction on May 25, 2020, this Order provides the Ventura County's Public Health Department's approval for implementation of subsection (a) immediately above.

c. This Order does not obligate places of worship and providers of religious services and cultural ceremonies to resume in-person activities.

d. The Health Officer recommends that places of worship and providers of religious services and cultural ceremonies consider and implement as may be appropriate the guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health on Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies.

e. As a condition of operating under this authority, places of worship or providers of religious services or cultural ceremonies shall post a written notice explaining how it will comply with the guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health where it can easily be seen by employees or patrons of the establishment. The posted notice shall prominently display the name and telephone number of the County Covid Compliance Hotline where compliance related questions or complaints may be reported by employees and patrons.

5. **Activities allowed outside of place of residence.** The State Stay at Home Order allows for persons to leave their places of residence to engage in certain activities. The State Public Health Officer has issued guidance, primarily in the form of posted answers to “Frequently Asked Questions,” that can be ambiguous and frequently amended or otherwise changed. For the sake of clarity and guidance to persons residing in Ventura County, this section of the Order sets forth a non-exclusive list of activities outside of a person’s place of residence that the County Health Officer has deemed to be allowed. To the extent any activity described herein conflicts with and is more permissive than the State Stay at Home Order as it is currently written or as it may be amended, the State Stay at Home Order shall take precedence and shall be enforced.

a. Persons may leave their places of residence to perform the following activities, among others:

(1) To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including pets), such as, by way of example, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional or obtaining supplies needed to work from a place of residence.

(2) To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example, canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish and poultry, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operation of places of residence.

(3) To engage in funeral services, provided the following restrictions are observed:

(i) For graveside services, members of the deceased’s household and the relatives of the deceased within the second degree (including in-laws) may gather for the activity provided that Social Distancing Requirements are followed and that no more than 10 persons gather.

(4) To engage in a wedding ceremony outside a place of worship, provided that Social Distancing Requirements are followed to the greatest extent feasible and that no more than 10 persons (who need not be from the same household or living unit), in addition to the couple to be married and the officiant, gather in a stable group.

(5) To attend a gathering of any size to observe or participate in live or virtual presentations to the gathering, such as faith-based services, concerts, plays, political speeches, movies and similar activities, provided that all of the following protocols are followed:

- (i) All activity must occur outdoors;
- (ii) All persons attending the activity must be inside a motor vehicle occupied only by persons from the same household or living unit;
- (iii) All motor vehicles at the gathering must maintain a distance of six feet from all other vehicles;
- (iv) All persons must remain in the vehicle in which they arrived at all times during the event;
- (v) No restroom facilities shall be made available to persons at the facility during the event;
- (vi) Notwithstanding the above, one or more persons, not exceeding five, may enter nearby buildings as necessary to putting on the presentation; and
- (vii) Social Distancing Requirements shall be complied with to the greatest extent feasible.

(6) To engage in outdoor activity, provided the persons comply with Social Distancing Requirements, such as, by way of example, golfing, tennis, pickle-ball, walking, hiking, running, bicycling, pleasure driving and working around their places of residence, including gardening.

(i) To provide accommodations for persons who wish to golf as a form of outdoor activity, public and private golf courses may operate provided they strictly enforce Social Distancing Requirements and enforce the following additional protocols:

- (a) Motorized carts are allowed provided that only one person may occupy a cart at any time (except where drivers are required for disability accommodations);
- (b) No more than four golfers (who need not be from the same household or living unit), are allowed per group and

each group must be stable (i.e., persons may not substitute in or out of the group);

(c) A distance of at least 30 feet shall be maintained between groups of golfers at all times;

(d) All ball washers shall be covered and flag pins shall either be removed or affixed to prevent handling by golfers, and the cup on each green shall be inverted or otherwise installed to eliminate high-frequency touch surfaces on the greens and tees;

(e) Persons may use a driving range provided that range balls are properly sanitized before distribution to customers (stand-alone golf driving ranges may also operate).

(7) To otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order.

(8) To care for a family member or pet in another household.

(9) To prepare and present a live-stream or other virtual communication by an organization or association to its members, including worship services. Staff of organizations or associations (who need not be of the same household or living unit), including faith-based organizations, may gather in a single space at the same time solely for the purpose of preparing and presenting live-stream or other virtual communications provided that the number of such staff is the fewest necessary to prepare and present those communications, but in no event in excess of 10 persons, and that Social Distancing Requirements are followed.

6. **Social Distancing Requirements defined.** “Social Distancing Requirements” means and includes maintaining at least a six-foot physical distance from other persons, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer as frequently as possible, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces and not shaking hands.

7. **Compliance.** The violation of any provision of this Order or the State Stay at Home Order constitutes a threat to public health and a public nuisance per se. In addition, pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the County Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order.

8. **Violation may constitute unfair competition.** Any person that, after notice, operates, manages, maintains or occupies or continues to operate, manage, maintain or occupy, any business in violation of this Order or the State Stay at Home Order may, in

addition or in the alternative to any other civil and criminal penalties allowed by law, be subject to liability under the Unfair Competition Law (chapter 5 of part 2 of division 7 of the Business and Professions Code, commencing at section 17200), and subject to civil penalties and other relief as provided therein, for each act or practice in violation of this Order, the State Stay at Home Order, any predecessor order, or any of them.

9. **More restrictive provisions of local and State orders enforceable.** Where a conflict exists between this Order and any State public health order, the more restrictive provision controls.

10. **Applicable to entire County.** This Order applies to all persons in the cities and the entire unincorporated area of the County.

11. **Effective date and time; repeal of prior order.** This Order shall become effective and operative at 11:59 p.m. on May 29, 2020, and will continue to be in effect until 11:59 p.m. on June 14, 2020, or until it is extended, rescinded, superseded or amended in writing by the County Health Officer.

12. **Copies of This Order.** Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County of Ventura Public Health Office, 2240 East Gonzalez Road, Suite 210, Oxnard, California, 93036; (2) posted on the Ventura County Public Health Department website (available at [www.vchca.org/ph](http://www.vchca.org/ph)); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

13. **Severability.** If any provision of this Order or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this 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:**



**Robert Levin, M.D.**  
**Ventura County Health Officer**

Dated: May 29, 2020