



OFFICE OF THE AGENCY DIRECTOR

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March 6, 2020

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street
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SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY BY THE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER RELATED TO THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution ratifying the Declaration of a Local Health Emergency by the County Health Officer related to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY

In December 2019, an outbreak of a respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease known as 2019 Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19) was first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Since then, the outbreak has spread to more than 75 countries, including the United States. As of March 5, 14 California counties have had at least one citizen infected with the virus. The County of Alameda is among those counties, as are several Bay Area counties including Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma.

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers COVID-19 to present a very serious threat to public health. On January 23, 2020, the CDC activated its Emergency Response System to provide ongoing support for the response to COVID-19 across the United States. On January 31, 2020, the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency in the United States.

As of March 6, 2020, the CDC has identified 164 confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection, across 19 states, including 45 in California. The number of reported cases has escalated dramatically, with more than 94,000 confirmed cases and more than 3,300 deaths worldwide.

On March 1, 2020, the California Department of Public Health confirmed that an Oakland resident had become infected with COVID-19 after providing healthcare to the Solano County COVID-19 patient. Two days later, an individual in Berkeley also tested positive for COVID-19 Infection.

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California Health and Safety Code section 101080 allows a local health officer to declare a local health emergency in the health officer's jurisdiction, or any part thereof, "whenever the health officer reasonably determines that there is an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, chemical agent, noncommunicable biologic agent, toxin, or radioactive agent." On March 1, 2020, Alameda County Interim Health Officer Erica Pan, MD, MPH, FAAP declared a local health emergency. Dr. Pan found that with "multiple cases of COVID-19 and evidence of community transmission in the region, there is an ongoing risk and likelihood of additional COVID-19 positive patients and community spread in the County of Alameda." Dr. Pan renewed this declaration of emergency on March 5, 2020.

The declaration of a local health emergency provides the following benefits: it allows other jurisdictions and state agencies to provide mutual aid; it allows the extraordinary costs of providing mutual aid to be a legal charge against the state; and it provides immunity to healthcare providers who render aid during the emergency. The declaration also provides the local Health Officer with the authority to exercise the full range of her power to protect the community's public health, which includes issuance and enforcement of orders for quarantine and isolation.

Under section 101080, your Board is required to ratify the Health Officer's declaration of emergency. Ordinarily, your Board would need to renew this ratification every thirty (30) days; however, on March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency relating to the COVID-19 outbreak that included a waiver of the renewal requirement: "The 30-day time period in Health & Safety Code section 101080, within which a local governing authority must renew a local health emergency, is hereby waived for the duration of this statewide emergency. Any such local health emergency will remain in effect until each local governing authority terminates its respective local emergency." The Governor similarly waived the renewal requirement for a declaration of local emergency.

VISION 2026 GOAL

This Resolution meets the 10X goal pathway of **Healthcare for All** in support of our shared visions of **Safe and Livable Communities**, **Thriving and Resilient Population**, and **Healthy Environment**.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Colleen Chawla, Director
Health Care Services Agency