



Contact: 805-212-9484

September 17, 2020

Health Officer Order Issued for All Individuals Entering or Residing in Homeless Shelters and H-2A Housing

Ventura, CA – The County Health Officer, Doctor Robert Levin, has issued a new Health Officer Order requiring temperature screening, self-evaluation and reporting of COVID-19 cases at all homeless shelters and H-2A housing in the County of Ventura. This Order is effective September 18 at 12:00 am.

The new order stipulates the following:

1. All individuals entering or residing in a homeless shelter or H-2A housing shall be screened for COVID-19 symptoms daily.
2. If through daily screening an individual or resident has symptoms related to COVID-19 the individual must immediately self-isolate and notify the manager, operator, owner of the facility or employer.
3. The operator, manager, owner of homeless shelters or the employers providing H-2A housing must immediately notify the Ventura County Public Health Department when there is one case of confirmed COVID-19 in the homeless shelter or H-2A at 805-981-5201 .

Public Health strongly recommends that homeless shelters and H-2A housing utilize stable groups to reduce potential transmission of COVID-19 in these types of housing. The screening listed in this order has already taken place throughout the pandemic response at homeless shelters in the County of Ventura. The shelter partners are screening for symptoms including temperature checks multiple times per day. This includes the publicly and privately funded emergency shelter programs. These screening efforts are also taking place at agricultural facilities and businesses throughout the County.

Providing direct outreach to farmworkers has been a top priority throughout the County's COVID-19 response efforts. A Ventura County Health Education Program called Cultivating Health in Agriculture takes important resources to the farms. The effort includes Ventura County Medical Center Doctors in partnership with Public Health, the Farmworker Resource Program and Logrando Bienestar. The team provides medical and mental health and wellness outreach where physicians visit the farms to answer questions, test and provide prevention information.

The Ventura County Health Care Agency has waived fees and costs related to any respiratory or COVID-19 related treatment during the response efforts. The clinics have also provided expanded multi-lingual tele-health efforts to answer questions and provide guidance. Drive through testing sites were launched in Oxnard, Moorpark, Ventura and Santa Paula offering no cost COVID-19 testing for all community

members. The testing is offered during later evening hours at all sites and on weekends at the Oxnard site.

In April, the County, in collaboration with the County Executive Office, the Farmworker Resource Program, Farm Bureau of Ventura County, Ventura County Agricultural Association, many local growers and the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, issued an Advisor for Agricultural Worker Protection to be used during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Advisory provided information for employee hygiene emphasizing hand washing, staying home when sick and social distancing to avoid the spreading of illness during work activities and breaks. The advisory also provided guidance for employers to have soap or disinfectant, potable water and single-use disposable towels available at worksites and throughout facilities. Instruction for routine environmental cleaning in high traffic areas, training and limiting nonessential visits and travel were included in the advisory.

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office also issued 1,000,000 masks to agricultural sites throughout the County. These measures have helped to protect farmworkers. Farmworker cases are 3.80% of the total positive cases. Other vulnerable populations include 65+ years at 9.4%, Healthcare Workers at 5.4%, Long-term care facilities at 4.9%, and Service Industry workers at 2.30%.

The Public Health team responds when there is any report of an outbreak to a facility. Testing is provided and contact tracing begins so that those who may have been exposed to a positive case are alerted and provided with guidance for self-quarantine. This immediate response has helped to limit additional spread. Public Health also provides alternative temporary housing at local hotels for those who have been exposed or tested positive to COVID-19.

In addition to the Advisory, mask distribution and site visits there has been on-going multilingual educational outreach. This includes resource information with Farmworker paychecks, WhatsApp messaging, videos in multiple languages, social media messaging in partnership with community partners, public service announcements, outreach at local businesses, churches and schools, digital sign board messaging and streaming of press conferences, board meetings, doctor question and answer time and town halls in English and Spanish.

In addition to this outreach, early on the County funded expanded evening hours for Food Share pop-up sites allowing for more accessibility to food and a rental assistance program was launched to provide funding for those who cannot afford to pay rent due to COVID-19 impacts. The Farmworker Household Assistance Program is also open for applications for \$1,500 for household expenses.

The County's Farmworker Resource Program coordinators serve the agricultural community throughout the year. They have been conducting regular outreach throughout the pandemic. The program is staffed by trilingual employees who speak indigenous languages like Mixteco and are knowledgeable about the agricultural industry and serve as outreach resources to farmworkers and their employers.

Stay informed at www.venturacountyrecovers.org. Please report Covid Compliance concerns to covidcompliance@ventura.org or by calling 1(844) 826-7367.

ORDER OF THE VENTURA COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

**FOR THE CONTROL OF COVID-19
REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS ENTERING OR RESIDING-IN HOMELESS
SHELTERS AND H-2A HOUSING**

TEMPERATURE SCREENING, SELF EVALUATION, AND REPORTING FOR COVID-19

Effective Date: SEPTEMBER 18, 2020, 12:00 a.m.

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order may constitute a misdemeanor punishable by fine of up to \$1,000, imprisonment, or both. (Health and Safety Code §§101029, 120295 et seq.) Violators are also subject to civil enforcement actions including fines or civil penalties per violation per day, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and costs.

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency for conditions caused by a novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, and on March 12, 2020, the County of Ventura declared a local health emergency in relation COVID-19 in the community; and

WHEREAS, in the County of Ventura as well as throughout California and the nation, there are insufficient quantities of critical healthcare infrastructure, including hospital beds, ventilators and workers, capable of adequately treating mass numbers of patients at a single time – should the virus spread unchecked; and

WHEREAS, in direct response to the lack of healthcare infrastructure, governments across the nation are taking actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 in order to “flatten the curve” of infection and reduce the numbers of individuals infected at any one time by minimizing situations where the virus can spread; and

WHEREAS, members of vulnerable populations, such as homeless individuals, migrant workers and farmworkers, residing in homeless shelters and H-2A housing, are at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than the general population due to fewer opportunities for: social distancing; selection of associates; self-control over activities of daily living such as sleeping arrangements, meal times and locations; transportation; healthcare access; alternative living arrangements; and

WHEREAS, members of these vulnerable populations may have higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 disease due to underlying health conditions and/or limited access to health care, resulting in delayed medical intervention; and may suffer worse outcomes as a result, including higher risk for death; and outbreaks of COVID-19 in homeless shelters and H-2A farmworker housing have occurred and continue to occur, including in Ventura County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Ventura Health Officer finds: (1) There is an increased risk of COVID-19 among those living in Homeless Shelters and H-2A Housing (defined) and among those providing services in these facilities; (2) That daily symptom screening of individuals and residents in accordance with the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and other public health officials around the world, is essential for rapid identification and isolation of symptomatic individuals; (3) Limiting the number of interactions between individuals during activities of daily living, such as meals, travel, physical and social activities, serves to reduce the potential exposure to other individuals living in these facilities to asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic individuals infected with COVID-19; (4) Notification to the Public Health Department when there is one case of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in the Homeless Shelter or H-2A Housing allows rapid identification and management of outbreaks, reducing the spread of COVID-19; and (5) Distinctions made in this Order are to minimize the spread of COVID-19 that could occur through proximity and duration of contact between individuals

WHEREAS, this Order is intended to reduce transmission of COVID-19 exposure in vulnerable populations residing in Homeless Shelters and H-2A Housing as described herein. All provisions of this Order should be interpreted to effectuate this intent.

ACCORDINGLY, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, AND TITLE 17 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS SECTION 2501, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF VENTURA ORDERS:

1. This Order is effective 12:00 a.m. September 18, 2020, until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the County of Ventura Health Officer ("Health Officer"). This Order applies in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Ventura County ("County").
2. **Homeless Shelters & H-2A Housing Defined.** Homeless Shelter means a supervised public or private facility that provides temporary living accommodations during the night for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. H-2A Housing means housing provided by employers pursuant to Title 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 655, Subpart B "Labor Certification Process for Temporary Agricultural Employment in Range Sheep Herding, Goat Herding, and Production of Livestock Occupations."
3. **Daily symptom screening.** All individuals entering or residing-in a Homeless Shelter or H-2A Housing shall be screened for COVID-19 symptoms daily. All individuals shall submit to a temperature screening by the least intrusive method possible, and shall complete a symptom self-evaluation using the symptoms listed in Attachment A, as attached hereto and incorporated by this reference ("Symptoms").
4. **Notification to Homeless Shelter or H-2A Housing.** If through Daily Symptom Screening

an individual or resident has Symptoms including a temperature screening of the individual is 100.0° F or 37.8° C or greater, or subjective fever, or mild to moderate Symptoms related to COVID-19 or other respiratory illness, including sore throat, runny nose, fever, chills, not feeling well, sneezing and coughing, gastro-intestinal symptoms such as soft stool or stomach cramps, and vomiting as listed in Attachment A, then the individual must immediately self-isolate and notify the manager, operator, owner of the facility, or employer.

5. **Notification of Public Health.** The operator, manager or owner of Homeless Shelters, or the employers providing H-2A Housing shall immediately notify the Ventura County Public Health Department when there is one case of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in the Homeless Shelter or H-2A Housing.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE ORDER THE HEALTH OFFICER STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that Homeless Shelters and employers providing H2-A Housing utilize stable groups to reduce potential transmission of COVID-19 in these types of housing. A stable group is a pre-determined cohort of residents who engage in activities together. The intent of a stable group is to reduce the number of individuals residents may come into contact with, and to prevent mixing of larger groups of individuals within the housed population. In assigning individuals to stable groups, facility operators, or employers, should consider issues such as individual needs and schedules, work requirements, psychological and social needs, and personal habits or preferences. Stable groups should contain no more than 14 individuals for residence-based activities such as:

- Travel, such as transportation to work, medical appointments or other activities such as shopping or personal care services;
- Social, educational, physical, and recovery activities at the homeless shelter or H-2A farmworker housing; and
- Meals and dining activities.

This Order is issued as a result of the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 which has infected at least 25 million individuals worldwide, including 11,929 cases and 142 deaths in the County, and is implicated in over 800,000 worldwide deaths.

This Order is issued based on evidence of continuing transmission of COVID-19 both within the County and worldwide, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approach to slow transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, as well as best practices as currently known and available to protect the public from the risk of spread of or exposure to COVID-19.

This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference: the March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom; the March 12, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency based on an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of novel COVID-19 in the County; the March __17, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors ratifying the County Declaration of Local Health Emergency and

Health Officer Order, County of Ventura

Homeless Shelters & H-2A Housing Temperature Screening, Self-Evaluation, and Reporting for COVID-19

Proclamation of Emergency regarding COVID-19; the guidance issued on March 11, 2020 by the California Department of Public Health regarding large gatherings of 250 people or more; Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20 of March 12, 2020 preparing the State to commandeer hotels and other places of temporary residence, medical facilities, and other facilities that are suitable as places of temporary residence or medical facilities as necessary for quarantining, isolating or treating individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or who have had a high-risk exposure and are thought to be in the incubation period; the March 13, 2020 Presidential Declaration of a National Emergency due to the national impacts of COVID-19; the guidance issued on March 15, 2020 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health, and other public health officials through the United States and around the world recommending the cancellation of gatherings involving more than fifty (50) or more persons in a single space at the same time; the March 16, 2020 order of the State Public Health Officer prohibiting all gatherings with expected presence above ten (10) individuals; and Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20 of March 19, 2020 ordering all persons to stay at home to protect the health and well-being of all Californians and to establish consistency across the state in order to slow the spread of COVID-19; the March 22, 2020, Presidential Declaration of a Major Disaster in California beginning on January 20, 2020 under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Incident DR-4482; Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-60-20 of May 4, 2020 to allow reopening of lower-risk businesses and spaces ("Stage Two"), and thereafter to allow reopening of higher-risk businesses and spaces ("Stage Three"), and directing the State Public Health Officer to establish criteria and procedures to determine whether and how particular local jurisdictions may implement public health measures that depart from the statewide directives; the July 13, 2020 State Public Health Officer Order; and the August 28, 2020 State Public health Officer Order called California's Plan for Reducing COVID-19 and Adjusting Permitted Sector Activities to Keep Californians Healthy and Safe.

This Order is made in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, including but not limited to: Health and Safety Code sections 101040 and 120175; Health and Safety Code sections 101030 et seq., 120100 et seq.; and Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations section 2501.

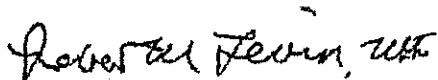
If any provision of this Order or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes a threat to public health. Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code sections 101029 and 120295, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 101029, "the sheriff of each county, or city and county, may enforce within the county, or the city and county, all orders of the local health officer issued for the purpose of preventing the spread of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease. Every peace officer of every political subdivision of the county, or city and county, may enforce within the area subject to his or her jurisdiction all orders of the local health officer issued for the purpose of preventing the spread of any contagious,

infectious, or communicable disease. This section is not a limitation on the authority of peace officers or public officers to enforce orders of the local health officer. When deciding whether to request this assistance in enforcement of its orders, the local health officer may consider whether it would be necessary to advise the enforcement agency of any measures that should be taken to prevent infection of the enforcement officers."

Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County Public Health Department; (2) posted on the County's COVID-19 website: www.venturacountyrecovers.org; and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Robert Levin, M.D.
Health Officer
Ventura County Public Health Department

COVID-19 SELF-EVALUATION

Ventura County's Health Officer Order requires individuals entering or residing-in Homeless Shelters, and H2A Housing, to conduct a self-evaluation for COVID-19 symptoms daily and to immediately self-isolate and notify the manager, operator or owner of the facility, or employer, if you have any of these symptoms:

Mild to Moderate Symptoms Related to or Other Respiratory Illness such as:

Sore Throat

Runny Nose

Fever

Chills

Not Feeling Well

Sneezing

Coughing

New loss of smell and/or taste

Gastro-Intestinal symptoms such as:

Soft Stool

Stomach Cramps

Vomiting

Immediately self-isolate and notify the manager, owner, operator, or employer of your Homeless Shelter or H-2A Housing if you have these symptoms

For any questions or concerns about compliance with this order, please call VCPH at (805) 981-5201