



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



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## **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY**

March 12, 2020

### **Guidance for Vulnerable Settings: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Dear Colleagues:

#### **Current Situation**

As of March 12, 2020 (7:00 AM). Pacific Time, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has confirmed 198 cases of COVID-19 among California residents (24 from repatriation flights; 60 travel-related; 43 person-to-person transmission; 44 community acquired; and 27 unknown sources). On March 11, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic.

Today, Marin County Public Health is releasing new standards for protecting the residents of skilled nursing facilities and other congregate settings for vulnerable populations. These recommendations are effective immediately through March 26, 2020 and will be evaluated based on the evolving situation.

#### **Recommendations**

To limit opportunities for transmission, measures are necessary to interrupt and slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect overall community health. The following recommendations have been made in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

#### **Skilled Nursing Facilities, Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (assisted living), Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled, and Congregate Living Health Facilities**

- Restrict all visitors (except health care personnel and care providers) from entering the facility
- Cancel group activities to minimize potential transmission between residents
- Restrict employees from working while feeling sick or showing symptoms
- Follow CDC's [guidance for Long-Term Care Facilities & Nursing Homes](#)
- Report notifiable infectious diseases, including COVID-19, to your licensing agency

**Adult Residential Facilities, Adult Day Programs, Adult Day Health Care, Board and Care (unlicensed), and Group Homes**

- Restrict all visitors (except immediate family, health care personnel and care providers) from entering the facility
- Restrict visitor from visiting while feeling sick or showing symptoms
- Cancel group activities to minimize potential transmission between residents
- Restrict employees from working while feeling sick or showing symptoms
- Follow CDC's guidance for [employers and business](#)
- Report notifiable infectious diseases, including COVID-19, to your licensing agency

**Continuing Care Retirement Communities**

- Enhance infection control procedures for staff that work in multiple settings
- Promote social distancing (6 feet) recommendations among residents
- Encourage residents to follow CDC's [guidance for people at serious risk for illness from COVID-19](#)
- Follow California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [guidance](#) to limit gatherings to no more than 10 persons in venues that allow social distancing of 6 feet per person

**Home Health Agencies**

- Follow CDC's guidance for [employers and business](#)
- Educate employees about [good hygiene strategies](#)
- Increase practice of sanitizing frequently touched surfaces
- Caregivers should stay home and not work when sick

**Senior Community Centers**

- Follow CDPH's [guidelines](#) and cancel gatherings of 10 or more participants if individuals are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19
- Make plans to provide meals without congregating seniors
- Make plans to provide alternate activities for seniors (e.g., small groups less than 10 persons)
- Implement CDC's [recommendations](#) for environmental cleaning and disinfection

### **Parks and Recreation**

- Recommend cancellation of events with 100 or more in attendance indoors
- Follow CDPH's [guidelines](#) and cancel gatherings of 10 or more participants if individuals are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19
- Make plans to provide alternate activities for seniors (e.g., small groups less than 10 persons)
- Implement CDC's [recommendations](#) for environmental cleaning and disinfection

### **Faith Based Organizations and Affiliate Groups**

*Many faith-based organizations and affiliate groups have a high proportion of at-risk individuals in their community.*

- Follow CDC's [guidance](#) for faith-based organizations
- Follow CDPH's [guidelines](#) and cancel gatherings of 10 or more participants
- Make plans to provide alternate activities for seniors (e.g., small groups less than 10 persons)
- Implement CDC's [recommendations](#) for environmental cleaning and disinfection

### **Additional Information**

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#)

[Marin Health and Human Services](#)

Sincerely,

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