

Amador County Public Health Department

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ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF AMADOR REGARDING FEBRILE ILLNESS SURVEILLANCE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK

DATE OF ORDER: MARCH 30, 2020

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor and may be punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code § 120295, *et seq.*)

WHEREAS, a state of emergency has been declared by the State of California, and local emergencies have been declared in Amador County in response to the virus COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in Amador County, 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 that 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, there currently is no available treatment, however, limiting transmission of the disease can be accomplished through community mitigation measures that decrease the likelihood of being exposed to the droplets of an infected person. These measures include Stay at Home Orders and practicing social distancing. Aggressive containment operations including isolating suspect cases and persons under investigation and quarantining their contacts can limit the spread of the disease and help reduce the impacts of the disease on society; and

WHEREAS, both locally and nationally there is limited testing capacity for COVID-19 due to availability and number of laboratory specimen collection and test kits. This order will add a non-test based surveillance strategy to Amador County’s containment efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Amador County Health Officer issues the following orders, which will go into effect as of March 30, 2020, and will remain in effect within Amador County until April 30, 2020, or until extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer:

1. All Health Care Providers shall:
 - a) On a daily basis report to the Amador County Public Health Department all patients evaluated in their practice with a febrile respiratory illness. This may include virtual/telephonic visits as well as office

visits. Please utilize the attached Febrile Respiratory Illness Surveillance reporting tool and submit it via secure fax to 209-223-1562 by noon the following business day; and

- b) The patient information shall include demographic information, including age, as well as the residential address, and the clinical status shall indicate whether fever was subjective or measured, whether rapid point of care testing was performed and, if so the results of that testing, and whether COVID-19 testing was done;
- c) Advise the patient, if no exclusionary diagnosis is found, that they are required to isolate themselves for at least 7 days after the onset of symptoms AND for 72 hours after cessation of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications pursuant to this Order.

2. All Employers shall:

- a) On a daily basis, while conducting business, screen all employees for self-reported febrile respiratory illness; and
- b) Exclude from work all employees that report symptoms of respiratory illness or fever for 7 days from the day they are identified as having symptoms; and
- c) Advise any employee that is excluded from work that they are required to isolate at home for at least 7 days after the onset of symptoms AND for 72 hours after cessation of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications pursuant to this Order.

3. All Residents shall:

- a) Self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19; and
- b) Isolate themselves for at least 7 days after onset of symptoms AND for 72 hours after cessation of fever without use of fever-reducing medications pursuant to this order, unless they should require further medical attention.

4. Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a) Fever,
- b) Cough, and
- c) Shortness of breath.

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5. For the purposes of this Order, the following definitions shall apply:
- a) "Febrile Respiratory Illness" is a new or worsening episode of either cough or shortness of breath, presenting with fever (measured temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius or higher), or self-reported fever or chills within the previous 24 hours.
 - b) "Isolation" is the separation of sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.
 - c) "Social distancing" is the maintaining of a 6-foot separation from all persons who are not members of the same household.

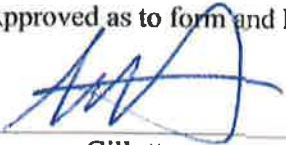
IT IS SO ORDERED:



Rita H. Kerr, M.D.
Health Officer of the County of Amador

Dated: March 30, 2020

Approved as to form and legality:



Gregory Gillott
Amador County Counsel

What does it mean to be isolated?

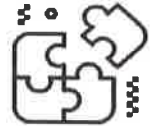


Stay at home except to get medical care.

You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Do not use public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis. You will need to make arrangements to have groceries and household items delivered to your home. If you need help with this, please let us know.

Separate yourself from other people in your home.

As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.



Wear a facemask.

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not stay in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

Cover your coughs and sneezes.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, immediately clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.



Clean your hands.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid sharing personal household items.

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home. After using these items, they should be washed thoroughly with soap and water.



Monitor your symptoms.

Seek prompt medical attention if your symptoms worsen. Before seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or may have, COVID-19 infection. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider's office to keep other people from getting infected or exposed. Ask your healthcare provider to call the Amador County Public Health Department (209)223-6407. **If you need emergency medical care call 911** and tell them you have, or may have, COVID-19. You may discontinue isolation 7 days after symptoms started AND if you have had 72 hours of symptom improvement including being fever-free without using medicine.

If you have questions or are having difficulty maintaining your isolation, please contact the Amador Public Health Department at (209)223-6407.