

# County of Santa Clara

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## **NOTICE OF MAY 4, 2020 COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER AND ITS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY**

To Whom It May Concern:

On April 29, 2020, the Santa Clara County Health Officer issued a new mandatory legal order (“Order”), which replaces the prior shelter-in-place order issued on March 31, 2020. As of May 4, 2020, all individuals and businesses in the County must comply with the new Order. This new Order will remain in effect until 11:59 pm on May 31, 2020, but that date could be changed by the County Health Officer. Similar orders are in effect across the Bay Area.

The County Health Officer issued the new Order after determining that continued social distancing is needed to slow the rate of spread of COVID-19, prevent deaths, and ensure the healthcare system does not become overwhelmed. The new Order directs all individuals in the County to continue sheltering at their place of residence. Individuals may leave their residences to work for an essential business or engage in essential travel or activities. The Order also allows certain low-risk outdoor businesses to resume operating and authorizes certain additional outdoor activities to take place, so long as there is strict compliance with social distancing requirements.

Please visit the County Public Health Department website at the following web address to view the Order, answers to Frequently Asked Questions, and an Executive Summary outlining important changes to the prior order.

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/DiseaseInformation/novel-coronavirus/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx>.

### **How Does the Order Affect the Agricultural Industry and Its Workers?**

The Order deems food cultivation (including farming, livestock, and fishing) an essential business and encourages it to continue operating to meet the public’s nutritional needs. Non-food agricultural operations are also allowed to operate, so long as all business with the public is restricted to outdoor areas. To operate, all businesses must comply with the following:

### 1) *Social Distancing Protocol*

To continue operating, all businesses must complete and implement an updated Social Distancing Protocol for each of their facilities in the County frequented by personnel or the public. The Protocol must be based on the form provided in Appendix A to the new Order, located at the above link. If your business posted a Protocol using the form attached to the March 31 order, you must update it to reflect the new Order's requirements. Post a copy at or near each public entrance of your facility and provide a copy to all employees.

The Protocol template is available in English, Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese. It should be posted in English and any other language spoken by a significant portion of your workers.

The Protocol must explain how your business will achieve certain social distancing, employee health, and hygiene and sanitation measures.

The updated template is available at the following link and a copy is attached for your reference: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Documents/Appendix-A-Social-Distancing-Protocol.pdf>.

### 2) *Social Distancing Requirements*

The Order makes five social distancing requirements mandatory for almost everyone, including workers for essential businesses and outdoor businesses. The only exceptions are when social distancing is impossible or inadvisable. The mandatory social distancing requirements are:

- Maintain at least six feet of distance from anyone who is not part of your household.
- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer recognized by the CDC to be effective in combatting COVID-19.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or fabric or, if that's not possible, cough or sneeze into your sleeve or elbow (not into your hands).
- Avoid all social interaction outside your home when you're sick with a fever or cough.
- All personnel and customers must wear a cloth or other non-medical face covering when working at or visiting any business facility in the County, including outdoor businesses and agricultural operations. The only exceptions are for people for whom a face covering may not be safe (such as children 6 and under or anyone who has trouble breathing) or when wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) required by the employer for certain agricultural operations (such as pesticide application).

### 3) *Safety Measures for the Agricultural Industry*

To continue or resume operating, your business must comply with the COVID-19 Safety Measures for Agricultural Industry Workers and Employee Housing enclosed with this letter.

This mandatory guidance includes information on the Order, sanitation and hygiene measures, employee health protocols, and standards for worker housing and community dining areas.

The guidance also includes information on a new State sick leave requirement for food sector employers. Effective April 16, 2020, employers with 500 or more workers who are engaged in the food supply chain (including farmworkers and those in food processing and food packaging) are required to provide up to 80 hours of sick leave for full-time workers (and leave calculated on prior hours for part-time workers).

**Stay Up To Date**

This Order may be modified or extended and others may be issued. For up-to-date COVID-19 information and mandates, visit the SCC Public Health Department website at <http://sccphd.org/coronavirus>.

Please direct specific questions related to agricultural operations to [scc.agriculture@cep.sccgov.org](mailto:scc.agriculture@cep.sccgov.org) or call (408) 918-4610.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Respectfully,



George Han, MD, MPH  
Deputy Health Officer  
Public Health Department



Joe Deviney  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Department of Agriculture

Enclosures: COVID-19 Safety Measures for Agricultural Industry Workers and Worker Housing

Guidance for Workers