



COUNTY OF ORANGE

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County of Orange Declares Emergency in Response to COVID-19

Santa Ana, Calif. (February 26, 2020) – The County of Orange has declared a local emergency and a local health emergency to prepare for COVID-19, commonly known as novel coronavirus.

“The County of Orange and our County Health Officer Dr. Nichole Quick have declared a local emergency. We have issued these declarations in light of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s comments on COVID-19 yesterday, along with the possibility of active COVID-19 patients being brought to Fairview Developmental Center in my district in Costa Mesa,” said Chairwoman Michelle Steel, Second District. “Although there are currently no cases of coronavirus in Orange County, my goal is to ensure all residents and visitors to Orange County as well as all of our resources can be prepared in the event of an outbreak.”

The declaration of both a local emergency and local health emergency assists the County of Orange to better leverage resources in order to prepare to our staffing needs and greater agency coordination all while allowing for future reimbursement for County activities by state and federal governments in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in Orange County.

“This decision from the County did not come lightly,” said Vice Chairman Andrew Do, First District. “This is a measured and prudent response in preparation for the possibility of a COVID-19 outbreak in Orange County. The Board of Supervisors and county staff are working vigilantly to monitor and prepare all the resources at our County’s disposal to ensure the safety and well-being for all of Orange County’s residents and visitors.”

While there has been only one confirmed case in Orange County and that individual has recovered, the OC Health Care Agency continues to engage and monitor the rapidly changing worldwide response to COVID-19.

“With 60 U.S. cases of coronavirus, we are facing a real-life crisis that must be managed. I support an emergency declaration, not because I necessarily believe the public is in more danger, but because the federal and state governments refuse to give us enough information to discharge our public health responsibilities,” said Supervisor Donald P. Wagner. “Orange County is a major tourist destination with a robust business sector, the sheer number of visitors and residents traveling to and from Orange County is significant. We want to be vigilant in ensuring the County is prepared and has sufficient resources to prevent and combat any possible outbreak of COVID-19.”

Should more COVID-19 cases occur in Orange County, the OC Health Care Agency (HCA) would share that information with community members and medical providers, and colleagues at the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



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“Our utmost concern is for the health and welfare of all Orange County residents and visitors alike,” said Supervisor Doug Chaffee, Fourth District. “The County of Orange will use all of its resources to ensure we are protected from any possible COVID-19 outbreaks.”

County of Orange residents are encouraged to visit www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus, call the OC Health Care Agency’s Health Referral Line from Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1 (800) 564-8448, and monitor social media channels to ensure they have the most accurate and up to date information related to COVID-19.

“Orange County residents need to take the proper precautions to ensure their health and welfare are protected at all times,” said Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, Fifth District. “The best way to receive the most up to date information on how to stay healthy and safe locally is to follow our OC Health Care Agency on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).”

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DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code section 101080 authorizes 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, non-communicable biologic agent, toxin, or radioactive agent;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced on February 25, 2020 that community spread of COVID-19 is likely to occur in the United States;

WHEREAS, based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statements, there is an ongoing risk and likelihood of COVID-19 positive patients being identified in Orange County;

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, there is an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of COVID-19 in the County of Orange and a threat to the public health of the County residents;

THEREFORE, the County Health Officer hereby declares a health emergency.



Nichole Quick, MD, MPH
Health Officer

2/26/2020

Date

COUNTY OF ORANGE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

REQUEST FOR GOVERNOR TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in accordance with Government Code Section 8630, a local emergency may be proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Orange or by an official so designated by ordinance adopted by the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-1-6(a) of the Codified Ordinances of the County of Orange provides that the Director of Emergency Services shall request the Board of Supervisors to proclaim a local emergency when the Board of Supervisors is in session and the Chair of the Emergency Management Council to so proclaim when the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is not currently in session, and the Director of Emergency Services has requested that the Chair of the Emergency Management Council proclaim a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus, COVID-19, which causes infectious disease resulting in symptoms of fever, coughing and shortness of breath with outcomes ranging from mild to severe illness and in some cases death, has arisen in China and spread to numerous other countries including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined the virus to be a very serious public health threat, yet the method and efficacy of transmission of the virus is not yet fully understood and no vaccine currently exists; and

WHEREAS, Orange County has a population of over 3 million residents, is a major tourist destination, has a high volume airport within its jurisdiction and is a significant

destination for business travel all resulting in high volumes of foreign and domestic travelers traveling into and out of the County, which has the potential to result in significant spreading of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the Health Officer of the County of Orange has determined that the County is preparing for an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the virus; and

WHEREAS, communities within the geographic boundaries of Orange County have and will continue to prepare and, as necessary, take significant response actions to any developing contagion and to any other risks that may arise from introduction and possible spread of the virus;

WHEREAS, the above described events are creating a condition of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of the County of Orange which conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the County of Orange, and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat;

IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency exists within the geographic area of Orange County;

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that as of this date all County departments and agencies take those actions, measures and steps deemed necessary to assure the safety and welfare of Orange County residents and property, including requesting mutual aid to the extent such aid is necessary and utilizing EOC Cal Cards and any other available funding stream to acquire resources determined by the DES or an authorized emergency purchaser as necessary to respond to this declared emergency.

ACCORDINGLY, THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTING AS THE CHAIR OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL HEREBY REQUESTS that the Governor declare a State of Emergency and make all relevant funds available to the County of Orange and all eligible community members and businesses, including but not limited to, California Disaster Assistance Act funds and State Private Nonprofit Organizations Assistance Program funds, and that the Governor request that the President of the United States make a Presidential Declaration of Emergency in and for the County of Orange and make all relevant funds available to the County of Orange and all eligible community members and businesses, including, but not limited to, aid provided by the Small Business Administration.

Date: 2/26/20

Signed: 

Michelle Steel,
Chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors Acting as
the Chair of the Emergency Management Council
County of Orange