County of Imperial
Amended Order of the Health Officer

Pursuant to sections 101040, 120175, and 120175.5(b) of the California Health and Safety Code, the Imperial County Health Officer ("Health Officer") hereby amends and supersedes the Amended Health Officer Order dated May 26, 2020. The Health Officer ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

Effective 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1, 2020, and continuing until rescinded, the following will be in effect for the County of Imperial ("County"):  

1. All residents of and visitors to the County are ordered to continue to stay home at their place of residence or shelter in place, with the following exceptions:  
   a. Residents may continue to maintain the continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors, and additional sectors as the State Public Health Officer may designate as critical to protect health and well-being of all Californians, as further outlined in Executive Orders N-33-20 and N-60-20, and the list of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers (https://covid19.ca.gov/essential-workforce/) developed by the California Department of Public Health ("CDPH"), as they may be amended or supplemented, unless as otherwise restricted by this Order.  
   b. Residents may engage in those activities deemed permissible by CDPH, as may be amended or supplemented (https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/), unless as otherwise restricted by this Order.  
   c. Residents may engage in those activities deemed permissible as detailed in the State Public Health Officer's Order dated May 7, 2020 (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/SHO%20Order%205-7-2020.pdf), the State’s Resilience Roadmap (https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/), and the County’s Roadmap to Recovery, as they may be amended or supplemented, unless as otherwise restricted by this Order.  

2. All businesses, nonprofits, governmental agencies, and other entities (collectively, "Entities") located within the County shall continue to remain closed, with the exception of the following:  
   a. Those Entities identified as necessary to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors, and additional sectors as the State Public Health Officer may designate as critical to protect health and well-being of all Californians, as further outlined in Executive Orders N-33-20 and N-60-20, and the list of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers (https://covid19.ca.gov/essential-
workforce/) developed by CDPH, as they may be amended or supplemented, unless otherwise restricted by this Order.

b. Those Entities otherwise permitted to reopen in accordance with the State Public Health Officer’s Order dated May 7, 2020 (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/SHO%20Order%205-7-2020.pdf), the State’s Resilience Roadmap (https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/), and the County’s Roadmap to Recovery, as they may be amended or supplemented, unless otherwise restricted by this Order.

3. Those Entities that are permitted to reopen in accordance with the State’s Resilience Roadmap (https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/), and the County’s Roadmap to Recovery shall adhere to the guidance for reopening issued by State Public Health Officer and CDPH, as may be amended or supplemented, unless otherwise restricted by this Order. Additionally, those Entities that fall into one of the industry-specific guidelines developed by CDPH must adhere to those specific guidelines:


q. Places of Worship (https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf). Case studies conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have determined that certain faith-based activities may increase the likelihood of transmission of COVID-19 to other congregates:

(https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6920e2.htm)
(https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6919e6.htm)

Therefore, the following additional restrictions shall apply to places of worship:

i. Places of worship are strongly encouraged to continue offering virtual services and other means of congregating that do not require individuals to appear in person.

ii. No indoor services or congregations shall be permitted. Outdoor services are permitted, but shall be limited to one hundred (100) individuals. Physical distancing of a minimum of six (6) feet must be maintained at all times during outdoor services. Services shall not be held under shade structures where at least six (6) feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained.

iii. Singing and group recitation are strongly encouraged to be done through alternative methods (i.e. internet live and/or recorded streaming, telephone, drive-in, etc.). Face coverings must be worn when singing or performing group recitation.

iv. Faith traditions that require the kissing of ritual objects, use of common cups, and use of other community property such as preprinted programs and books shall be discontinued. Activities such a communion may continue if provided pre-packaged and placed on seating areas prior to services. Congregates may bring their own books or other worship materials to services or other faith gatherings.

v. The passing of offering plates shall be discontinued. Places of worship may set up containers where congregates may place their donations.

vi. Children must remain with their family group at all times during services or other faith gatherings. Sunday school and other children services shall not be permitted.


w. Any additional industry-specific guidance that may be developed by CDPH, which can be found on the State’s Resilience Roadmap website (https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/).

4. In addition to those orders and guidelines issued by the State, the following rules and restrictions shall apply to the County:

a. Those Entities that are identified as necessary to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors as stated in the list of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers (https://covid19.ca.gov/essential-workforce/), are strongly encouraged to utilize curbside pick-up and delivery services whenever feasible. All other non-essential entities that have been permitted to operate by the State without the issuance of a County variance shall be limited to curbside pick-up and delivery services only.

b. Those Entities that are permitted to operate through curbside pickup and delivery shall not allow visitors to enter into their buildings. When conducting curbside pick-up or delivery, visitors shall be required to stay within their vehicles or maintain a minimum distance of six feet (6) from an Entity’s building at all times.

c. All Entities, including those identified as necessary to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors as stated in the list of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers, are strongly encouraged to implement telecommuting and other lawful measures to minimize the amount of employees onsite at any given time.

d. All Entities shall be required to comply with the Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings issued by the CDPH on June 18, 2020 (“CDPH Face Covering Order”). All employees of and visitors to an Entity shall be required to wear face coverings, unless an employee or visitor falls within one of the exceptions outlined in the CDPH Face Covering Order.

e. Family units residing in and visiting the County should refrain from visiting Entities in groups. Family units are strongly encouraged to limit the number of persons visiting an Entity to one person per visit.

f. All County-owned and operated parks shall be closed. Cities located within the County’s boundaries are strongly encouraged to closed city-owned and operated parks.

g. Gatherings of individuals, of any size, shall only be permitted as expressly provided within this Order. Gatherings for the provision of essential services shall be permitted if the services cannot be otherwise provided. Individuals gathering for the provision of essential services shall maintain a minimum of six (6) feet from others at all times whenever possible. Additionally, individuals gathering for the provision of essential services shall wear face coverings at all times, unless falls within one of the exceptions outlined in the CDPH Face Covering Order. All other gatherings, of any size, that include individuals that do not reside within the same residence are prohibited.

5. Local variance of the State’s Resilience Roadmap may be permissible if certain readiness criteria developed by CDPH are met by the County (https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap-counties/). Any such variance of the State’s Resilience Roadmap shall be done in accordance with all processes and procedures developed by CDPH, as they may be amended or supplemented, including but not limited to the attestation by the County’s Health Officer that all readiness criteria designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 have been met.

6. All residents of and visitors to the County shall continue to abide by the face covering and social distancing directives outlined in the Health Order dated June 16, 2020, as amended.

7. The County and of the cities residing within the County are strongly encouraged to increase community education through collaboration with their respective law enforcement agencies to inform the public about the restrictions on public and private gatherings.

8. The County and of the cities residing within the County are strongly encouraged to reinvent their public messaging with more aggressive communications campaigns that engage additional community-based and faith-based groups with a toolkit to reorient and educate the community.

9. The County is strongly encouraged to continue its binational partnership with the City of Mexicali, Mexico, to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 in both communities.

10. This Order does not, in any way, restrict: (a) first responder access to the site(s) named in this Order during an emergency; or (b) local, State or federal officers, investigators, or medical or law enforcement personnel from carrying out their lawful duties at the site(s) named in this Order.
11. The County shall promptly provide copies of this Order by: (a) posting it on the County’s Department of Public Health’s website (http://www.icphd.org/health-information-and-resources/healthy-facts/covid-19/state-&-county-orders/); (b) posting it at the County Administration Center located at 940 W. Main Street, El Centro, California, 92243; and (c) providing it to any member of the public requesting a copy.

12. The owner, manager, or operator of any Entity that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public requesting a copy.

13. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, business, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid, preempted, or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

14. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference any applicable federal, State, or local law, regulation, rule, policy, or procedure related to COVID-19, as they may be amended or supplemented.

15. To protect the public’s health, the Health Officer may take additional action(s) for failure to comply with this Order. Violation of this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, fine or both under sections 120295 et seq. of the California Health and Safety Code. Further, pursuant to sections 26602 and 41601 of the California Government Code, and section 101029 of the California Health and Safety Code, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and the Chiefs of Police in all cities located in the County ensure compliance with and enforcement of this Order.

16. This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Date: July 1, 2020

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Stephen Munday, M.D., MPH
Health Officer