

County of Imperial
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 rescinds and supersedes the Health Officer Orders dated November 19, 2020, November 20, 2020, December 5, 2020, and February 7, 2021. The Health Officer hereby **ORDERS AS FOLLOWS**:

WHEREAS, on August 28, 2020 the State Public Health Officer for the state of California (“State”) issued a [Statewide Public Health Officer Order](#) (“August 28th Order”), which went into effect August 31, 2020, and superseded the July 13, 2020 State Public Health Officer Order; and

WHEREAS, the August 28th Order created a new framework for the reopening of businesses under COVID-19, and has been designated California’s Plan for Reducing COVID-19 and Adjusting Permitted Sector Activities to Keep Californians Healthy and Safe, also referred to as the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#); and

WHEREAS, since the issuance of the August 28th Order, the County of Imperial (“County”) has been under Tier 1 of the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#); and

WHEREAS, on March 9 2020, the County was informed by the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) that the County had met the criteria for moving into Tier 2 of the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), effective March 10, 2020 and

WHEREAS, in reviewing the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) and CDPH’s [Industry Guidance to Reduce Risk](#) as they relate to Tier 2, the Health Officer has determined that additional restrictions above and beyond those provided in the are necessary in order to protect the health and safety of the residents and visitors of the County; and

THEREFORE, effective 12:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, and continuing until rescinded, the following will be in effect for the County of Imperial:

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 and visitors 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](#) developed by CDPH, as they may be amended, updated, or supplemented. Such operations shall be subject to additional State and local guidelines and restrictions, as further set forth in this Order.

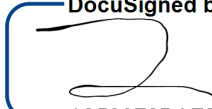
- b. Residents and visitors may engage in those activities deemed permissible under the State's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) - Tier 2, including all amendments, updates, or supplements thereto. Such activities shall be subject to additional State and local guidelines and restrictions, as further set forth in this Order.
 - c. Residents and visitors may engage in those additional activities deemed permissible by CDPH, as may be amended, updated, or supplemented. Such activities shall be subject to additional State and local guidelines and restrictions, as further set forth in this Order.
2. All businesses, nonprofits, governmental agencies, schools, 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](#) developed by CDPH, as they may be amended, updated, or supplemented. Such operations shall be subject to additional State and local guidelines and restrictions, as further set forth this Order.
 - b. Those Entities otherwise permitted to reopen in accordance with the State's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) - Tier 2, including all amendments, updated, or supplements thereto. Entities permitted to reopen under the Blueprint for a Safer Economy shall be subject to additional State and local guidelines and restrictions, as further set forth in this Order.
3. All residents, visitors, and Entities of the County shall adhere to the [Industry Guidance to Reduce Risk](#) developed by CDPH, as they may be amended, updated, or supplemented.
4. All residents, visitors, and Entities of the County shall adhere to any additional order or guidelines issued by the Governor, the State Public Health Officer, or CDPH concerning COVID-19, including any order or guidelines issued after the effective date of this Order, and any amendments, updates, or supplements thereto. State Orders and guidance documents can be accessed through CDPH's COVID-19 [website](#).
5. In addition to those guidelines and restrictions issued by the State, the following rules and restrictions shall apply within the County:
 - a. Singing, chanting, shouting, and the playing of wind instruments (any instrument played by the mouth, such as a trumpet or clarinet) shall only be permitted in outdoor public or private venues where the performers are able to maintain a distance of at least twenty (20) feet from the audience.

- b. 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 number of employees onsite at any given time.
 - b. Family units residing in or visiting the County are strongly encouraged to refrain from visiting Entities in groups. Family units are strongly encouraged to limit the number of persons visiting an Entity to one (1) person per visit.
6. Both the County and the cities located within the County's boundaries 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.
7. Both the County and the cities located within the County's boundaries are strongly encouraged to continue public messaging that engages community-based and faith-based groups and provides education to the community with respect to COVID-19.
8. 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.
9. This Order does not, in any way, restrict: (a) first responder access to any Entity 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 any Entity named in this Order.
10. The County shall promptly provide copies of this Order by: (a) posting it on the County's Department of Public Health's [website](#); (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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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, updated, or supplemented.

14. 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.
15. This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Date: March 9, 2021

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Stephen Munday, M.D., MPH
Health Officer