



County of San Diego

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WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

May 22, 2020

TO: San Diego County Hotel-Motel Association

FROM: Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.,
Public Health Officer & Director,
Public Health Services

RE: PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER ORDER FOR GATHERINGS

This letter is to provide you with information regarding the Executive Order N-33-20 issued by the Governor of the State of California, and by the State Health Officer (“Stay-at-Home Order”) and the Order of the Health Officer as it applies to hotels and lodging establishments. As set forth in these Orders all individuals living in the State of California are to stay at home or in their place of residence except as needed to maintain the continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors. Workers managing or servicing hotels or other lodging establishments that are used for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) mitigation and containment measures, treatment measures, providing accommodation for essential workers, or providing housing solutions including measures to protect homeless populations are deemed essential under the orders.

On May 7, 2020, the State Health Officer then set out California’s path forward from this Stay-at-Home Order in California’s Pandemic Roadmap. The Roadmap identifies four stages of the pandemic: safety and preparation (Stage 1), reopening of lower –risk workplaces and other spaces (Stage 2), reopening of higher-risk workplaces and other spaces (Stage 3), and finally an easing of final restrictions leading to the end of the Stay-at-Home Order (Stage 4). San Diego County is currently in Stage 2 of the Roadmap. Hotels and other lodging establishments are higher-risk workplaces and are not to be opened for non-essential purposes until Stage 3. The [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) and CalOSHA have issued Industry Guidance: Hotels and Lodging](#) on May 7, 2020 and updated on May 12, 2020 for hotels and other lodging establishments to prepare for the ability to open in Stage 3.


We have recently discovered that many hotels and lodging establishments are not only out of compliance with legal requirements but are advertising for tourism-related business and “staycations.” Please help us ensure that all hotels and other lodging establishments are aware of the requirements of the State and Local Orders so that we can lower the transmission of COVID-19. If some hotels and lodging establishments are flagrantly out of compliance it not only will put the public’s health at risk, but will delay the ability of San Diego County to get State approval to move to Stage 3, which will hurt many businesses across the County that are hoping to open in Stage 3. We are relying on your good judgment and cooperation in ensuring that we are all able to safely reopen San Diego in an appropriate time frame.

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For additional information about the outbreak and associated resources, please go to the COVID-19 websites at [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDPH](#), and the [County of San Diego](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at MOC.PHO.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support to keep the residents of San Diego County healthy, safe, and thriving.

Sincerely,


WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Officer & Director
Public Health Services

cc: Helen Robbins-Meyer, County of San Diego, Chief Administrative Officer
Nick Macchione, County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Agency Director