SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER ORDER FOR THE CONTROL OF COVID-19
No. c19-10  DIRECTING CLINICAL LABORATORIES TO ACCEPT ASSIGNMENTS FOR
COVID-19 DIAGNOSTIC TESTS FROM OPTUM SERVE AND LOGISTICS HEALTH INC.

DATE OF ORDER: May 13, 2020

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. California Health and Saf. Code, § 120295, et seq.; Cal. Penal Code §§ 69, 148(a)(1).


1. This Order will take effect at 11:59 p.m. on May 14, 2020 and will and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.

2. The State of California has contracted with Optum Serve and Logistics Health to provide COVID-19 diagnostic testing services at various locations throughout the State. To help slow COVID-19’s spread, protect vulnerable individuals, and prevent the healthcare system in the County from being overwhelmed, it is necessary for the Health Officer of the County of San Mateo to order clinical laboratories in the County to accept assignments for test specimens collected by Optum Serve or Logistics Health Inc.

3. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, the March 3, 2020 Proclamation by the Director of Emergency Services Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency in the County, the March 3, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency Regarding Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) issued by the Health Officer, the March 10, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo Ratifying and Extending the Declaration of a Local Health Emergency, the March 12, 2020 State of California Executive Order N-25-20, the April 15, 2020 Order of the Health Officer No. C19-1b extending and revising the Order restricting visitors to skilled nursing facilities to all residential type facilities; NO c19-2 (no longer applicable-mass gatherings), the April 13, 2020 Order of the Health Officer No. C19-3c extending and revising the School Operations Modification Order, the March 24, 2020 Order of the Health officer No. C19-4 directing all laboratories conducting COVID-19 diagnostic tests to report COVID-19 test information, the April 29, 2020 Order of the Health Officer No. C19-5c limiting and extending the Shelter in Place Order, the April 6, 2020 Orders of the Health Officer Nos. C19-6 and C19-7 requiring isolation for COVID-19 positive individuals and quarantine to Close Contacts of COVID-19 positive individuals,
the April 18, 2020 Order of the Health Officer No. C19-8 requiring the wearing of face coverings in public, and the May 11, 2020 Order of the Health Officer No. c19-9 permitting highly regulated vehicle-based gatherings.

4. This Order is also issued in light of the existence, as of May 12, 2020, of 1515 confirmed cases of infection by the COVID-19 virus in the County, including a significant and increasing number of suspected cases of community transmission. This Order is necessary to slow the rate of spread, and the Health Officer will continue to assess the quickly evolving situation and may modify this Order, or issue additional Orders, related to COVID-19, as changing circumstances dictate.

5. Clinical Laboratories in the County are ordered to accept assignments for COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests administered to individuals (1) who are referred for testing by the County Health Officer or designee, and (2) whose specimens are collected under Optum Serve/Logistics Health Inc. services, as contracted for by the State of California.

6. Definitions.

   a. “Diagnostic Test” means nucleic acid amplification testing or serologic testing to determine the presence of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) or novel coronavirus infection.

   b. “Clinical Laboratory” means any facility meeting the requirements to perform testing classified as high complexity under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of section 353 of the Public Health Service Act.

7. Pursuant to San Mateo County Health Officer No. C19-4 and in accordance with the State’s mandated laboratory reporting laws, all laboratories conducting COVID-19 diagnostic tests are required to report COVID-19 test information, including positive, negative, and inconclusive test results, to Health Officer and the California Department of Public Health, and shall include age, sex, patient address and race/ethnicity data fields.

8. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063; (2) posted on the County Health Services website (www.smchealth.org/post/health-officer-statements-and-orders); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy.

9. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

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Scott Morrow MD, MPH
Health Office of the County of San Mateo

Dated: May 13, 2020