

March 31, 2020

Santa Clara County Health Officer Order to Shelter in Place – March 31, 2020

This page provides a partial summary of the new order. For full details, visit www.sccphd.org/cv19.

The Health Officer Order to Shelter in Place issued on March 31, 2020 extends the earlier order to Shelter in Place through May 3, 2020. It also limits more activities.

What is the goal of the order to shelter in place?

The order to shelter in place allows us to:

- 1) Lower the number of total people who become sick.
- 2) Save lives by slowing the spread of the virus to ensure we have enough room in our hospitals for people who develop severe illness.

How does sheltering in place help?

Sheltering in place is proven to slow the spread of the virus if everyone decreases the number of people with whom they come in contact because it decreases the number who might get sick from someone who is infected.

What does it mean to shelter in place?

Sheltering in place means you:

- Must stay at home as much as possible
- Can only leave your home for “essential activities,” to work for an “essential business,” carry out “minimum basic operations” for a business, perform an “essential governmental function,” or for “essential travel” as explained in the Order.
- Cannot host or attend any gatherings of any size.

Activities you can still do: (partial list only. Refer to www.sccphd.org/cv19 for more detail)

- grocery shopping, pick up medications, or pick up food to-go
- work if you work for an essential business
- attend doctor’s appointments
- go outside as long as you can maintain 6 feet or more distance from others at all times

What is different in this order from the one from March 16, 2020?

The updated Order clarifies essential business and activities and has some new directives:

- Limiting activities at parks and other outdoor activities to improve social distancing
- Closing playgrounds and shared facilities for recreational facilities
- Closing dog parks
- Requiring essential businesses to prepare, post, and implement a Social Distancing Protocol
- Limiting the number of people allowed in a store at one time and providing guidance on how to control shopping lines
- Requiring stores to provide hand sanitizer
- Further limiting allowable construction activities
- Eliminating the exemption for businesses that sell products that allow people to work from home
- Allowing delivery of goods but not services to residences and businesses.