



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 Emeline Ave., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962

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Public Health Division

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ SUSPENDING ELECTIVE SURGERIES AND ELECTIVE PROCEDURES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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 Safety Code § 120295, *et seq.*; Cal. Penal Code §§ 69, 148(a)(1))

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:

1. This Order temporarily requires the suspension of certain elective surgeries and elective procedures performed at hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers (collectively, “Facilities”) that operate within the geographic boundaries of the County of Santa Cruz (“County”). This Order shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 7, 2021, and shall continue in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded or amended in writing by the Health Officer.
2. This Order is issued in response to critical shortages of staffing, overall bed capacity and Intensive Care Unit capacity due to surging demand on the healthcare systems in the County of Santa Cruz as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These shortages have led to near crisis-care status in the County’s hospitals.
3. Effective immediately, all hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers in the County shall categorize all elective surgical procedures by Tier using the Elective Surgery Acuity Scale (ESAS) from St. Louis University and suggested by the American College of Surgeons (see www.facs.org/covid-19/clinical-guidance/triage). Beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 7, 2021, all Tier 1 and Tier 2 surgical procedures in the County must be delayed until this Order is rescinded.
4. To the extent that this Order contains restrictions that are less strict than those issued by the California Department of Public Health, the California Department of Social Services or other state or federal authority, the more restrictive provisions shall apply.
5. 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 4, 2020 Declaration of a Local Health Emergency Regarding Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) issued by the Santa Cruz County Health Officer, the March 10, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz

Ratifying the Declaration of a Local Emergency, the March 10, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz Proclaiming a Local Emergency, the December 3, 2020 Regional Stay at Home Order issued by the Acting State Health Officer, and the December 6, 2020 Supplement to the Regional Stay at Home Order issued by the Acting State Health Officer.

6. Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order. The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.
7. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, Facility, structure or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining provisions or applications of this Order.
8. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County offices at 701 Ocean St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (2) posted on the County Public Health Department website (www.santacruzhealthservices.org); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Gail Newel, MD
Health Officer of the County of Santa Cruz

Dated: January 5, 2020

Approved as to Form:



Siobhan Kelley
Office of the County Counsel