

ORDER NO. 2020-3

**SAN JUAN COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER ORDER
REGARDING COVID-19; AMENDING AND REPLACING ORDERS
2020-1 AND 02-2020; ESTABLISHING LIMITS FOR PLAYGROUNDS AND PARKS;
LIMITING TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS, CAMPGROUNDS AND CAMPING
FACILITIES, PORTS, AND MARINAS; CREATING NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR
MARINE PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS; AND AUTHORIZING
NON-CONGREGATE SHELTER AND SUPPORT FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person which may result in serious illness or death and has been classified by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has and continues to spread broadly throughout Washington State, including San Juan County, significantly threatening the life and health of persons in San Juan County;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 can spread from people without symptoms to others;

WHEREAS, for every case of COVID-19 in the community we can expect 2.5 more cases in the community, leading to a dramatic increase in the number of cases over a short period of time;

WHEREAS, there are currently no known medications or vaccinations that are effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19,

WHEREAS, non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as social distancing, are presently the only effective measures to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19,

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington as a result of COVID-19 outbreak in the United States and confirmed person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State;

WHEREAS, since February 2020 Governor Inslee has issued a series of proclamations related to COVID-19 that place limitations on gatherings and travel, including Proclamation 20-25, "Stay Home -Stay Healthy," adopted on March 23, 2020 ("Governor Proclamation 20-25"), which requires all people in Washington State to cease leaving their home or place of residence except: (1) to conduct or participate in essential activities, and/or (2) for employment in essential business services, excepting those person whose homes or residence become unsafe such as victims of domestic violence and also excepting those persons experiencing homelessness;

WHEREAS, the Governor has clarified or modified the Stay Home –Stay Healthy order regarding certain activities including construction and outdoor recreation, including recreational hunting, fishing, boating, and golfing, through various documents including Governor

Proclamation 20-25, 20-25.1, and 20-25.2 and the Governor's April 4, 2020 memorandum regarding Implementation of Phase I Construction Restart;

WHEREAS, On May 1, 2020, the Governor announced his intent to extend the Stay Home –Stay Healthy order so that it is effective through May 31, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Governor's Proclamations 20-05 et seq. and accompanying guidance (collectively referred to in this order as "Statewide Orders") provide for a statewide framework for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Governor has established a phased approach to begin on May 5, 2020, which provides for "only essential travel" in Phase 1, "limited non-essential travel within proximity of your home" in Phase 2, and "resume non-essential travel" in Phase 3;

WHEREAS, the phased approach contemplates that each phase will last at least three weeks, thus suggesting that unlimited non-essential travel will likely not resume in the state of Washington until at least June 16, 2020 unless the phased approach is altered due to changed circumstances or a local waiver is approved at the state level;

WHEREAS, a lack of social distancing was observed at playgrounds and parks throughout San Juan County prior to the issuance San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-1;

WHEREAS, San Juan County has a large number of transient accommodations and overnight moorage facilities which are often used for overnight stays associated with non-essential travel;

WHEREAS, based on the current status of response to the pandemic both in San Juan County and statewide, inadequate testing capacity and availability and inadequate case and contact investigation capacity is presently available to appropriately provide for the public health, which inadequacy will be magnified and potentially lead to dangerous outbreaks of COVID-19 if large numbers of people travel in and out of San Juan County for non-essential stays such as tourist activities;

WHEREAS, there is currently limited access to essential protective equipment for emergency responders and essential medical providers in San Juan County and throughout the state;

WHEREAS, limiting non-essential travel to and within San Juan County provides effective social distancing and limits the potential to import and spread cases of COVID-19 in our rural and isolated county;

WHEREAS, this order is intended to supplement Statewide Orders in order to further control and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in San Juan County and protect our most vulnerable populations;

WHEREAS, in order to control and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in San Juan County and protect our most vulnerable populations, in my professional judgment, based on the current standards of practice and the best available medical and scientific information, the following measures should be continued or undertaken immediately:

- A. The measures enacted in San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-1 and extended in Order No. 02-2020 regarding the closure of playgrounds and playground equipment and notice requirements for parks regarding group activities and social distancing should continue through 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2020.
- B. Owners and operators of transient accommodations and campground and camping facilities shall provide accommodations or facilities only for purposes of allowing participation in essential activities, employment in essential business services, or for employment in either construction or outdoor recreation businesses as defined in and authorized by Statewide Orders.
- C. Port and marina facilities shall not allow new transient overnight moorage except for purposes of allowing participation in essential activities, employment in essential business services, or employment in either construction or outdoor recreation businesses as defined in and authorized by Statewide Orders.
- D. Notice shall be posted on vessels that provide marine passenger transportation indicating that travel for purposes not authorized by Statewide Orders is prohibited and punishable by law.

WHEREAS, based on current projections regarding the spread of COVID-19 it is likely that many individuals will be medically advised to isolate or quarantine or to voluntarily recover in the community, including persons who cannot do so at home due to the presence of a vulnerable individual, or because those persons are homeless or are non-residents, thus lacking a local home where they can safely do so;

WHEREAS, the use of non-congregate sheltering and support services in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic to assist individuals who cannot otherwise isolate, quarantine, or voluntarily recover in the community is necessary to preserve the health and safety of the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Frank James, Local Health Officer for San Juan County, under the authority of RCW 70.05.070, RCW 43.20.050, and WAC 246-100-036, and on the basis of the foregoing recitals, make the following ORDER:

1. **Playgrounds.** All playgrounds and playground equipment located in San Juan County that is accessible to the public or to groups of persons is closed. No person shall use, or permit a minor child for whom they are the parent or guardian to use, any publicly accessible playground or playground equipment in San Juan County.

2. **Playgrounds Notice.** Owners and operators of any (1) public playground or public playground equipment or (2) playground or playground equipment open to the public shall maintain posted notice indicating that the playgrounds and playground equipment are closed. Those portions of public parks or privately owned areas open to the public that are outside of playgrounds or play equipment are not closed by this order; however, owners of parks or similar outdoor facilities open to the public shall maintain posted notice that group activities

are not allowed and that users must engage in social distancing by maintaining separation of at least six feet from other persons who are not members of their household or residential living unit.

3. Transient Accommodations. Owners and operators of transient accommodations or campground and camping facilities located in San Juan County, as defined in San Juan County Code Chapter 18.20, shall provide such accommodations or facilities only to persons for whom such accommodations or facilities are required (1) to conduct or participate in essential activities, (2) for employment in essential business services, or (3) for any other purposes authorized by Statewide Orders, such as employment in certain construction or outdoor recreation businesses. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of this order, owners and operators of transient accommodations or campground and camping facilities located in San Juan County shall not provide accommodations for purposes of recreation, leisure, or sightseeing. Nothing in this order requires the removal of persons who are already staying in transient accommodations or campground and camping facilities at the time this order is made.

4. Overnight Moorage. Owners and operators of port and/or marina facilities located in San Juan County shall allow or provide new overnight moorage at such accommodations or facilities only to persons for whom such accommodations or facilities are required (1) to conduct or participate in essential activities, (2) for employment in essential business services, or (3) for any other purposes authorized by Statewide Orders, such as employment in certain construction or outdoor recreation businesses. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of this order, owners and operators of port and/or marina facilities located in San Juan County shall not provide accommodations for purposes of recreation, leisure, or sightseeing. Nothing in this order requires the removal of persons who are already moored at the time this order is made.

5. Providers of marine passenger transportation in San Juan County, including but non-limited to Washington State Ferries and commercial providers, shall, maintain prominent posted notice at entrance and exit points on each vessel providing passenger service that travel for purposes other than (1) to conduct or participate in essential activities, (2) for employment in essential business services, or (3) as otherwise provided in Statewide Orders is prohibited and is punishable by law. This notice requirement does not apply to individuals using their own vessels for personal use, although such persons remain subject to Statewide Orders. Additionally, it is requested that all providers subject to this section post the same notice at the place of ticket sales.

6. Non-Congregate Sheltering. San Juan County is authorized to establish non-congregate sheltering and support services specific to COVID-19 to assist individuals who cannot otherwise isolate, quarantine, or voluntarily recover in the community.

7. Definitions. For purposes of this order, “essential activities”, “essential business services”, and the exceptions thereto shall have the meanings established by Governor Proclamation 20-25 as it now exists or may hereafter be amended or clarified.

8. Replacement of Prior Orders. This order replaces and supersedes San Juan County Health Officer Order Nos. 2020-1 and 02-2020 in their entirety.

Section 6 of this order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the conclusion of the state of emergency declared by San Juan County Resolution No. 08-2020.

The remaining provisions of this order are effective immediately and shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2020, unless extended beyond that date.

DATED this 2nd day of MAY, 2020 at 3⁵⁵ am/pm.)

FRANK JAMES MD
FRANK JAMES, M.D.
SAN JUAN COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER