

**ORDER NO. 2020-5**

**SAN JUAN COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER ORDER  
REGARDING COVID-19; AMENDING PORTIONS OF ORDER 2020-3 TO MODIFY  
CAMPING REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTER ISLANDS AND EXTEND  
REQUIREMENTS FOR PLAYGROUNDS AND PARKS; TRANSIENT  
ACCOMMODATIONS, CAMPGROUNDS AND CAMPING FACILITIES, PORTS, AND  
MARINAS; AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR MARINE PASSENGER  
TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS**

**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 spread 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, including persons who are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic, to others;

**WHEREAS**, in the absence of interventions to limit the spread of the disease, 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 and the wearing of cloth face coverings, 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, business and leisure activity, and travel, including Proclamation 20-25, "Stay Home -Stay Healthy," adopted on March 23, 2020 ("Governor Proclamation 20-25");

**WHEREAS**, the Governor established a phased approach known as "Safe Start Washington" beginning on May 5, 2020, which provides for gradual increases over time in allowable business and leisure activity, travel, and gatherings with an emphasis on simultaneously minimizing the health impacts of COVID-19, reducing the risk of COVID-19 to Washington's most vulnerable populations, and preserving capacity in the health care system;



**WHEREAS**, San Juan County is currently preparing to move from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of the Safe Start Washington plan;

**WHEREAS**, Phase 3 of the Safe Start Washington Plan contemplates the opening of recreational facilities subject to statewide guidance and safety criteria along with the resumption of non-essential travel for all but high-risk individuals based on the status of COVID-19 spread and the risk of further spread as determined by statewide measures;

**WHEREAS**, the phased approach contemplates that each phase will last at least three weeks, thus suggesting that the broad non-essential travel authorized in Phase 3 will likely resume no sooner than mid- to late June 2020 unless the phased approach is altered due to changed circumstances or local waivers approved at the state level;

**WHEREAS**, San Juan County is a popular travel and leisure destination which experiences a large influx of visitors throughout the year, particularly in and around the summer months;

**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**, it is important to maintain existing measures intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at playgrounds, parks, and through non-essential travel while San Juan County remains in Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the Reopen Washington Plan;

**WHEREAS**, health measures now in place, capacity improvements within San Juan County and on a statewide level, and the character of small, isolated campgrounds minimize the health risks from COVID-19 from camping at the outer islands of the County when authorized by statewide orders;

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to eliminate local restrictions regarding playgrounds, transient lodging, and overnight moorage adopted in Health Order 2020-3 when the County moves to Phase 3 of the Reopen Washington Plan because of the safety measures, preventive systems, and reduction in virus transmission that will be present at that time;

**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 are necessary:

- A. The measures enacted in San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-3 regarding the closure of playgrounds and playground equipment, notice requirements for parks regarding group activities and social distancing, limitations on transient accommodations and campground and camping facilities, limitations on port and marina facilities, and notice requirements for vessels that provide marine passenger



transportation should be continued until San Juan County enters Phase 3 of the Reopen Washington Plan.

- B. The limitations on campground and camping facilities adopted in San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-3 should be modified to allow camping at non-ferry served islands in the County while San Juan County is in Phase 2 of the Reopen Washington Plan.

**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. San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-3 is amended to extend the expiration date of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 until San Juan County enters Phase 3 of the Reopen Washington Plan.

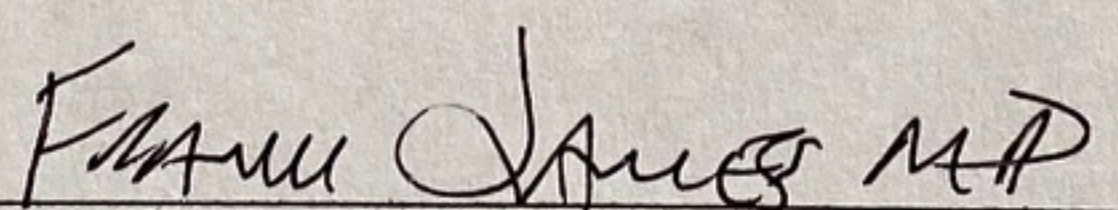
2. San Juan County Health Officer Order No. 2020-3 Section 3, Transient Accommodations, is amended to read as follows:

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. During any time that San Juan County is in Phase 2 of the Reopen Washington Plan, this Section does not apply to campground and camping facilities on non-ferry served islands, defined as islands other than Lopez Island, Orcas Island, San Juan Island, and Shaw Island. 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.

All other provisions of Proclamation Health Officer Order No. 2020-3 remain in full force and effect.

This order is effective immediately.

DATED this 21 day of May, 2020 at 6:23 pm.

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