

DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code section 101080 authorizes a local health officer to declare a local health emergency in the health officer's jurisdiction, or any part thereof, whenever the health officer reasonably determines that there is an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, chemical agent, noncommunicable biologic agent, toxin, or radioactive agent; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced on February 25, 2020 that community spread of COVID-19 is likely to occur in the United States; and on March 11, 2020, World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, three COVID-19 positive travel-related cases have been identified in Ventura County and one case of community transmission has been identified in a neighboring county; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, there is an imminent and proximate threat of COVID-19 spread in the County of Ventura and a threat to the public health of the County residents; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has already demonstrated its deleterious impact on human health in other counties in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, there is neither known specific anti-viral treatment nor immunization for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, social isolation is considered useful as a tool to control the spread of pandemic viral infections; and

WHEREAS, social isolation is the shared responsibility of a multitude of organizations, agencies, businesses, educational sectors and health care providers throughout the County; and

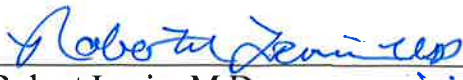
WHEREAS, early and widespread social isolation actions can spare lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED by the Ventura County Health Officer, that a local health emergency exists in the County of Ventura and shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors.

This declaration shall also apply to all public schools in Ventura County allowing for their closure as necessary due to this pandemic.

Dated: 3/12/2020

Time: 5:05 PM



Robert Levin, M.D.,
Ventura County Health Officer