San Francisco is experiencing a rapid and significant surge of COVID-19 cases. Accordingly, beginning at 10:00 pm on November 30, 2020, under the State’s November 19, 2020 Limited Stay At Home Order, all gatherings with members of other Households (including outdoors in a residence) and all other activities conducted outside a residence with members of other Households must cease between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., except for any activities associated with Essential Businesses and Essential Governmental Functions as those terms are defined in Health Officer Order C19-07o.

DIRECTIVE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER No. 2020-19d

DIRECTIVE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF
THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO REGARDING REQUIRED BEST PRACTICES FOR OUTDOOR GATHERINGS, INCLUDING SMALL OUTDOOR GATHERINGS, SMALL OUTDOOR MEAL GATHERINGS, OUTDOOR SPECIAL GATHERINGS FOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND CEREMONIES AND POLITICAL PROTESTS

(PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIVE)
DATE OF DIRECTIVE: October 20, 2020

By this Directive, the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco (the “Health Officer”) issues specific direction that Participants and Hosts, as described below, must follow as part of the local response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic. This Directive constitutes guidance as provided under Sections 4e and 11 and Appendix C-2 of Health Officer Order No. C19-07k issued on October 20, 2020 (the “Stay-Safer-At-Home Order”) and, unless otherwise defined below, initially capitalized terms used in this Directive have the same meaning given them in that order. This Directive goes into effect immediately upon issuance, and remains in effect until suspended, superseded, or amended by the Health Officer. This Directive has support in the bases and justifications set forth in the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. As further provided below, this Directive automatically incorporates any revisions to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order or other future orders issued by the Health Officer that supersede that order or reference this Directive. This Directive is intended to promote best practices as to Social Distancing Requirements and sanitation measures, helping prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and safeguard the health of workers, customers, and the community.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER DIRECTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. This Directive applies to all individuals who participate (“Participants”) and individuals and operators of facilities or other places who organize and host (“Hosts”) these three kinds of outdoor gatherings in the City and County of San Francisco (the “City”) as permitted under subsections 4, 9, and 10 of Appendix C-2 of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order:
   a) outdoor gatherings of no more than three different Households up to a maximum of 25 people in total between all Households (“Small Outdoor Gatherings”),
b) outdoor gatherings of no more than three different Households up to a maximum of six people in total between all Households, involving eating or drinking occurring somewhere other than at an outdoor dining establishment (“Small Outdoor Meal Gatherings”), and
c) outdoor gatherings among people from more than one Household for religious services or religious ceremonies and for political protests and involving no more than 200 people total (“Outdoor Special Gatherings”).

(Together, Small Outdoor Gatherings, Small Outdoor Meal Gatherings, and Outdoor Special Gatherings are referred to below as “Outdoor Gatherings”). This Directive does not limit gatherings that are otherwise allowed under the Order or any other health directive providing sector guidance. Also, the size number limits for the various types of Outdoor Gatherings that are subject to this Directive do not apply to gatherings of people (including Participants and Hosts) solely from a single Household. Indoor social gatherings among different Households are not allowed at this time.

2. Attached as Exhibit A to this Directive is a list of best practices that apply to Participants and Hosts engaged in Outdoor Gatherings (the “Best Practices”). All Participants and Hosts must comply with all applicable requirements listed in the Best Practices.

3. Hosts that operate a facility or other place in San Francisco and regularly organize or hold Outdoor Gatherings there or who otherwise regularly organize or facilitate Outdoor Gatherings at other locations must, before they begin to host or otherwise facilitate Outdoor Gatherings, create, adopt, and implement a written health and safety plan (a “Health and Safety Plan”). Hosts of any Outdoor Special Gathering must also, before they host or otherwise facilitate an Outdoor Special Gathering, create, adopt and implement a written Health and Safety Plan. The Health and Safety Plan must be substantially in the form attached to this Directive as Exhibit B.

4. Guidance from the Department of Public Health related to Outdoor Gatherings is attached to this Directive as Exhibit C and is available at http://www.sfdph.org/directives.

5. If an aspect, service, or operation of the Host covered under Section 3 above is also covered by another Health Officer directive (all of which are available at http://www.sfdph.org/directives), then such Host must comply with all applicable directives, and it must complete all relevant Health and Safety Plan forms.

6. Each Host covered under Section 3 above must (a) make the Health and Safety Plan available to anyone interested in participating in the Small Outdoor Gathering and to any involved Personnel on request, (b) provide a summary of the plan to all Personnel working on site or otherwise in the City in relation to its operations, and (c) post the plan at the entrance to any other physical location that such Host operates within the City. Also, each such Host must provide a copy of the Health and Safety Plan and evidence of its implementation to any authority enforcing this Order upon demand.
7. Each Host subject to this Directive must provide items such as Face Coverings (as provided in Health Officer Order No. C19-12c issued on July 22, 2020, and any future amendment to that order), hand sanitizer or handwashing stations, or both, and disinfectant and related supplies to any of that Host’s Personnel, all as required by the Best Practices. Where feasible, each Host is also encouraged to provide such items to Participants of Outdoor Gatherings or to make sure that Participants bring their own to the gathering. If any Host is unable to provide these required items to Personnel or otherwise fails to comply with required Best Practices or, if applicable under subsections 3, 4 or 5 above, fails to abide by its Health and Safety Plan, then it must cease operating until it can fully comply and demonstrate its strict compliance. Further, any Outdoor Gathering organized by such Host where the Host has failed to comply is subject to immediate closure and the fines and other legal remedies described below, as a violation of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.

8. For purposes of this Directive, “Personnel” includes all of the following people who provide goods or services associated with the Host in the City: employees; contractors and sub-contractors (such as those who sell goods or perform services onsite or who deliver goods for the business); vendors who are permitted to sell goods onsite; volunteers; and other individuals who regularly provide services onsite at the request of the Host. “Personnel” includes “gig workers” who perform work via the business’s app or other online interface, if any.

9. This Directive and the attached Best Practices may be revised by the Health Officer, through revision of this Directive or another future directive or order, as conditions relating to COVID-19 require, in the discretion of the Health Officer. All Participants and Hosts must stay updated regarding any changes to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and this Directive by checking the Department of Public Health website (www.sfdph.org/healthorders; www.sfdph.org/directives) regularly.

10. Implementation of this Directive augments—but does not limit—the obligations of each Host covered by Section 3 above under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order including, but not limited to, the obligation to prepare, post, and implement a Social Distancing Protocol under Section 4.d and Appendix A of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. The Host must follow these Best Practices and update them as necessary for the duration of this Directive, including, without limitation, as this Directive is amended or extended in writing by the Health Officer and consistent with any extension of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order, any other order that supersedes that order, and any Health Officer order that references this Directive.
This Directive is issued in furtherance of the purposes of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. Where a conflict exists between this Directive and any state, local, or federal public health order related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including, without limitation, the Social Distancing Protocol, the most restrictive provision controls. Failure to carry out this Directive is a violation of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order, constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH, Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco

Date: October 20, 2020