

STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF PUTNAM: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**In the Matter of the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020**

Pursuant to the Public Health Law, the New York State Sanitary Code and the Putnam County Sanitary Code

**COMMISSIONER'S  
STANDING  
ISOLATION  
ORDER**

WHEREAS, The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), formerly known as the 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), is an infection associated with fever and signs and symptoms of pneumonia or other respiratory illness, which appears to be transmitted from person to person predominantly through droplet transmission and, if spread in the population, could have significant public health consequences; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is believed to have emerged as a human pathogen in China in December 2019 and as of April 1, 2020, there were 883,225 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and additional suspected and/or probable cases, of COVID-19 reported to the World Health Organization from 180 countries, including Canada and the United States, with 44,156 deaths reported; and

WHEREAS, To date, there are a total of 213 cases of COVID-19 in Putnam County;

and WHEREAS, There presently is no vaccine for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, On January 30, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, advising that further cases may appear in any country; and

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, On February 1, 2020, pursuant to 10 NYCRR § 2.1(a), Dr. Howard A. Zucker, as Commissioner of Health of the State of New York, designated 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), now known as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), as a communicable disease under the State Sanitary Code; and

WHEREAS, As of February 5, 2020, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued “Interim US Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Exposure in Travel-associated or Community Settings.” That guidance indicates, among other things, that travelers who have been in China in the 14 days preceding arrival in the United State, and who are exhibiting symptoms of 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), should be isolated through public health orders; and

WHEREAS, The CDC has expanded these recommendations and issued a Global Pandemic Notice on March 27, 2020 advising against all non-essential international travel; and

WHEREAS, On February 6, 2020, the New York State Public Health and Health Planning Council ratified the designation of 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), now known as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), as a communicable disease under the New York State Sanitary Code through the adoption of emergency regulations amending 10 NYCRR § 2.1; and

WHEREAS, Recently, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has issued additional guidance entitled “2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Interim Containment Guidance: Precautionary Quarantine, Mandatory Quarantine and Mandatory Isolation Applicable to all Local Health Departments (LHD)” (the “Interim Containment Guidance”) which explains which persons must be quarantined and isolated; and

WHEREAS, The CDC has issued guidance as of March 16, 2020 entitled “Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 (Interim Guidance)” which states that Healthcare Personnel (HCP) should be excluded from work until:

- (a) At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and,
- (b) At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; and

WHEREAS, The CDC further has indicated that after returning to work, HCP should “[w]ear a facemask at all times while in the healthcare facility until all symptoms are completely resolved or until 14 days after illness onset, whichever is longer”; and

WHEREAS, The CDC has issued guidance as of March 16, 2020 entitled “Discontinuation of Home Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 (Interim Guidance)” which states that:

- (a) Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue home isolation under the following conditions:
  - (i) At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and,
  - (ii) At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; and
- (b) Individuals with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms may discontinue home isolation when at least 7 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test and have had no subsequent illness; and

WHEREAS, Section 2100 of the Public Health Law mandates that all local health officers, being Commissioners of Health and Public Health Directors, as the case may be, of County Health Departments, guard against the introduction of such communicable diseases as are designated in the

State Sanitary Code, by the exercise of proper and vigilant medical inspection and control of all persons and things infected with or exposed to such diseases; and

WHEREAS, 10 NYCRR § 2.29 provides that “whenever a case of a highly communicable disease (as defined in § 2.1 of this Part) comes to the attention of the city, county or district health officer he [or she] shall isolate such patients as in his [or her] judgment he [or she] deems necessary”; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to New York Public Health Law § 324(e), the Putnam County Charter, the Putnam County Administrative Code and the Putnam County Sanitary Code, the Commissioner is authorized to enforce the New York Public Health Law and its associated regulations; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to New York Public Health Law § 1300 et seq., the New York State Sanitary Code, 10 NYCRR Part 8, and Article 12 of the Putnam County Sanitary Code, the Commissioner shall investigate and order the suppression, removal and abatement of all nuisances and conditions detrimental to life and health found to exist in the health district; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioner has determined that persons infected with or exposed to persons infected with COVID-19 pose an imminent and significant threat to public health and safety and are a public health nuisance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by § 2100 of the Public Health Law of the State of New York, New York Public Health Law § 1300 et seq., 10 NYCRR § 2.29, 10 NYCRR Part 8 and Article 12 of the Putnam County Sanitary Code, as Commissioner, I do hereby ORDER that, effectively immediately:

1. Any resident of Putnam County who has been deemed Healthcare Personnel (HCP) by his/her current employer and advised by the Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) that he/she has tested positive for COVID-19 shall (a) travel directly to, if not already located there, and remain isolated at his/her residence, or at such other location as directed by PCDOH, for at least 3 days (72 hours) after recovery defined as resolution

of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and at least 7 days after symptoms first appeared, consistent with the CDC's and the NYSDOH's guidance discussed above, (b) not return to work until the period set forth in section (a) has passed, (c) when returning to work, wear a facemask at all times while in the healthcare facility until all symptoms are completely resolved or until 14 days after illness onset, whichever is longer and (d) cooperate with PCDOH public health authorities by providing information regarding the details of his/her illness, exposures and/or contacts; and

2. Any other resident of Putnam County who has been advised by PCDOH that he/she has tested positive for COVID-19, *and who has been symptomatic*, shall (a) travel directly to, if not already located there, and remain isolated at his/her residence, or at such other location as indicated by PCDOH, for at least 3 days (72 hours) after recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and 7 days after his/her symptoms first appeared, consistent with the CDC's and the NYSDOH's guidance discussed above and (b) cooperate with PCDOH public health authorities by providing information regarding the details of his/her illness, exposures and/or contacts; and
3. Any other resident of Putnam County who has been advised by PCDOH that he/she has tested positive for COVID-19, *and who has not been symptomatic*, shall (a) travel directly to, if not already located there, and remain isolated at his/her residence, or at such other location as indicated by PCDOH, for at least 7 days after the date of his/her first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test provided he/she has had no subsequent illness, consistent with the CDC's and the NYSDOH's guidance discussed above and (b) cooperate with

PCDOH public health authorities by providing information regarding the details of his/her illness, exposures and/or contacts; and be it further

ORDERED that each date upon which a person violates any term of this Order constitutes a separate and distinct violation subject to a civil penalty not to exceed the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) per violation per day. A parent or guardian subject to this Order on behalf of a diagnosed minor is responsible for compliance by his/her child.

DATED: Brewster, New York  
April 1, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Nesheiwat MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

MICHAEL J. NESHEIWAT, MD  
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH  
COUNTY OF PUTNAM