



March 20, 2020

Dear KPNAA Members,

I am and will continue to be in National and Regional KP meetings regarding the stay at home per Governor Newsom and further information provided in his speech last night. I am currently on all Command Center Regional and National calls and will keep the KPNAA Board of Directors updated. We will have a board meeting conference call tonight at 5 PM and your Board/Area Representatives will let you know the latest.

Kathleen Theobald
Executive Director, KPNAA



To help slow the spread of COVID-19 infections, tonight the governor of California and leaders from the County of Los Angeles, and the cities of Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Long Beach announced orders to “shelter in place.” All orders, which take effect at midnight, March 19, allow for the continued operation of essential services, which includes health care and Kaiser Permanente. It is important for you to know that Kaiser Permanente will remain open and operating to serve our members and patients.

The terms for the order for the citizens of California, which is being called several different names – Shelter in Place, Safer at Home, and Stay at Home – all mean essentially the same thing. Many people who work in what are defined as non-essential industries/companies, as well as others who are students, etc., are now required to stay at home except for activities such as going to the market.

This action is being taken as our government recognizes that to slow the rise of infections, we must limit our citizens’ exposure to the virus. As health care leaders, we of course support this effort. While the governor’s order will not stop the infection from spreading, as it is already in our communities, it will help to limit the rate of its spread.

All of us at Kaiser Permanente have a role to play in this, and it’s an essential

one. As such, all employees and physicians are expected to continue to meet their work responsibilities. This includes those of you working at the medical centers, those in administrative offices including our call centers, labs, and regional offices. You will continue to report in to your current work sites. Those of you who have been designated to work at home will continue your work there, unless called back for in-person work. Every Kaiser Permanente employee and physician is important to our ability to continue to provide high-quality, safe care and may be reassigned to help support essential patient and member care and services as needed. We know many of you are interested in further work at home opportunities. These are rapidly being assessed and protocols being developed recognizing that to be implemented they must meet the needs of our patients, our people and our business. Further details will be forthcoming as they are realized.

When at work, employees will see the many steps Kaiser Permanente is taking to follow social distancing guidelines that will help slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect our members, patients, employees, and physicians. We encourage you to continue best practices to help protect yourself, including frequent hand washing, refraining from touching your face, cleaning surfaces you touch, coughing or sneezing into your elbow or a tissue, and sanitizing your hands afterward.

As people who work in health care, we have a dual role – to be here for our patients, members, and communities, and to continue to ensure that Kaiser Permanente is able to provide high-quality, safe care. And second, to follow the safety precautions laid out in this order in our personal lives and care for those we love. Except for work, we need to stay home and limit our trips to only essential outings. And, importantly, we need to keep ourselves healthy by washing hands, exercising, and continuing to socialize, but virtually. Let's call our loved ones, check in on our elderly neighbors, and help our communities by donating (via virtual opportunities) to support local food banks, among other community needs.

We know these times may provoke anxiety. Know that you are not alone. If you are feeling stressed, reach out to friends, colleagues or our assistance programs. We care about you. We will continue to keep you informed as events unfold and provide additional guidance as needed. You are all part of noble work and an enduring, impactful legacy of caring. Thank you for your continued commitment to the vital work we are doing for our members, patients and the communities we serve.

Julie and Ed

For specific information about these orders, see these web links:

State of California: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>

County of Los Angeles: <https://lacounty.gov/covid19/>

City of Los Angeles: <https://corona-virus.la/>

City of Long Beach: <http://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/health/media-library/documents/diseases-and-condition/information-on/novel-coronavirus/long-beach-health-order---10-or-more>

City of Pasadena: <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/city-manager/news->

[releases/city-of-pasadena-issues-safer-at-home-order-for-control-of-covid-19/](#)

