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RE: Conditional Sailing Order

Dear Dr. Aragon:

On behalf of the California Conference of Local Health Departments (CCLHO), we wish to express our recommendation to CDPH regarding a Conditional Sailing Order (CSO) for California's coastal jurisdictions. As you may know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) CSO expired on January 15, 2022. CDC states that jurisdictions should continue to voluntarily follow the CSO, until they develop their new CDC COVID-19 Program. If the "no booster, then test" requirement is not included in the CDC COVID-19 Program, CCLHO would like to recommend to CDPH to add this requirement. Rather than having multiple local orders that may differ and to support our coastal jurisdictions, a requirement from CDPH will ensure a statewide consistent approach that will enhance the health and safety of Californians.

Currently, San Francisco County is using the megaevent pre-event testing timeframes as a guideline for their disembarkation testing requirements (PCR within 2 days, Antigen within 1 day). CCLHO believes this is a good approach and recommends that CDPH make this strategy a universal requirement. CCLHO asks that CDPH take the lead and issue an order to require cruise lines to test those passengers, who are not up-to-date (have not received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines including boosters), prior to any disembarkations during the cruise.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

President, California Conference of Local Health Officers

