Dear ACS Friend,

As you know, six Bay Area counties announced a virtual public lockdown in the face of the rapidly expanding coronavirus pandemic, aimed at slowing transmission of the deadly COVID-19 respiratory disease.

Health officers for the counties of Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin and the city of Berkeley announced the new “shelter in place” restrictions Monday amid a head-spinning flurry of new limits on public gatherings across the state and country. This announcement involves a legal order from the health officers of those counties directing their respective residents to shelter at home for three weeks beginning March 17. The order limits activity, travel and business functions to only the most essential needs.

The order defines “essential activities” as necessary for the health and safety for individuals and their families. Essential businesses allowed to operate during the recommended action include health care operations; businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals; fresh and non-perishable food retailers (including convenience stores); pharmacies; child care facilities; gas stations; banks; laundry businesses and services necessary for maintaining the safety, sanitation and essential operation of a residence. The order will be in place until April 7 and could be amended to end later or sooner.

Although, our physical offices and satellite locations will be closed, because ACS falls under the “social services” category, we are continuing to provide clinical services to our youth and family members. We will do so utilizing technology and live video conferencing mode exclusively beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020 (please contact your individual therapists for details). Outlet groups will be cancelled for the week of Monday 3/16. Afterwards, most Outlet Program groups will be virtual groups held online (please call 650.424.0852 x107 extension for more information).

Along with the ACS Board of Directors and leadership staff, I am monitoring the situation and will keep you informed about measures ACS will be taking in terms of continuing to support our youths and family members.

This is a very dire and unfamiliar situation we are all in. I ask that we all follow the directives from County officials and keep ourselves and our loved ones safe from contagion.

Please practice self-care while continuing to take care of others. We can get through this together. This too shall pass!

With care and concern,

Dr. Philippe Rey
ACS Executive Director