

RESOLUTION NO. 20-169

RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH ORDERS, ENCOURAGING COMPLIANCE THEREWITH AND PRIORITIZING AVAILABLE COUNTY RESOURCES TO ASSURE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, beginning in January, 2020 Mendocino County staff and community healthcare partners began preparations for responding effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020 the Mendocino County Chief Executive Officer/Director of Emergency Services proclaimed that a local emergency existed throughout Mendocino County; the Mendocino County Health Officer issued a Declaration of Local Health Emergency; and Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020 the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 20-024 ratifying the existence of a Local Emergency and a Local Health Emergency which have subsequently been renewed and remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020 the Mendocino County Health Officer issued a Shelter in Place Order and has subsequently issued revised Shelter in Place Orders and additional Health Orders which remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020 Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 directing that all residents of California comply with State Public Health Officer Orders requiring they stay at home or their place of residence except as allowed by said Orders which have subsequently been revised and remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 cases are surging nationwide, statewide, regionally and locally, thereby stressing healthcare delivery systems and healthcare personnel at all levels; and

WHEREAS, positive cases reported for the thirty days from November 7, 2020 through December 6, 2020 totaled 543 for a daily average of 18, with 370 cases in the last 15 days for an average of 24.67; and

WHEREAS, on December 6, 2020 there were 230 known active cases of COVID-19 in Mendocino County with 425 individuals in quarantine; and

WHEREAS, the rapid and continuing increase in active cases challenges the ability of our dedicated staff and volunteers to conduct thorough and timely contact tracing and case investigation which in turn challenges our ability to contain outbreaks and limit the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that Mendocino County reduce the number of new cases to avoid overwhelming the local healthcare system, and to reduce stress on Public Health staff and all healthcare workers, many of whom have been continuously on the front lines, routinely working overtime to the point that COVID-19 fatigue and burnout become serious threats; and

WHEREAS, the primary cause of transmission of COVID-19 in Mendocino County has consistently been traced to personal gatherings and other close contact in home and social environments, with recent anecdotal reports of large parties where masking and social distancing are not practiced; and

WHEREAS, masking when indoors, or outdoors in the presence of other people, social distancing and avoidance of gatherings are clearly understood and proven methods of slowing the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County has limited staff resources for enforcement and must rely on the Special Investigations Unit and Public Health staff within the Health and Human Services Agency; code enforcement personnel within the Planning & Building Services Department; and Mendocino County Sheriff's Office personnel; all of whom have other duties to which they are normally assigned and which are critical to the effective delivery of services to the residents of Mendocino County; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to prioritize our limited resources in a manner that most efficiently and effectively achieves compliance with Public Health Orders and COVID-19 safety protocols while assuring the delivery of critical services to the residents of Mendocino County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors hereby:

1. Affirms support for State and Local Health Orders that are in effect.
2. Encourages all residents, businesses and other entities to comply with State and Local Health Orders that are in effect.
3. Directs that the highest priority of enforcement for the Special Investigations Unit, Public Health, Planning & Building Services and other County staff shall be to assure that all complaints of private gatherings, particularly large parties, are investigated and if a complaint is confirmed that all necessary measures be taken to achieve compliance.
4. Encourages the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office to continue to work collaboratively with the Special Investigations Unit, Public Health, Planning & Building Services and other County staff to assure that large private gatherings, particularly parties, are not allowed to continue operating.
5. Directs that the second highest priority of enforcement shall be to assure compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols for masking, distancing, hygiene and improved air circulation, particularly for businesses or other entities that interact directly with the public and that all complaints of noncompliance shall be investigated and a determination made if the herein above COVID-19 safety protocols are being complied with, and if so, the subject of the complaint shall be advised of the requirements of the Health Orders and a report of the contact kept on file.
6. Directs that, other than preventing gatherings and assuring compliance with masking and social distancing, in order to assure continuity of critical County services, Special Investigations Unit, Public Health, Planning & Building Services and other County staff shall not treat enforcement of the Public Health order as a per se higher priority than normally assigned duties, but shall instead allocate resources in such a way that ensures completion of all critical duties unrelated to COVID-19

The foregoing Resolution introduced by Supervisor McCowen, seconded by Supervisor Williams, and carried this 8th day of December, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Brown, McCowen, Gjerde, and Williams
NOES: Supervisor Haschak
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared said Resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.

ATTEST: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board

JOHN HASCHAK, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Deputy

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CHRISTIAN M. CURTIS
County Counsel

BY: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board

Deputy