



Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Tammy Moss Chandler, Director

Noemi Doohan, MD, PhD, County Health Officer



Press Release

Not for op-ed

Date: March 16, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Health Officer Issues Order and Recommendation Media Advisory for Press Conference Tuesday March 17 at Noon

Mendocino County Public Health has been actively responding to the threat of COVID-19 since early January 2020. On March 4, 2020, Mendocino County declared a local health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, there is no evidence of community spread in Mendocino County. However, due to the crisis level shortage of testing for this disease and given that nearby San Francisco Bay Area is experiencing outbreaks of COVID-19 with extensive community spread, we recognize the imminent threat presented to Mendocino County's public health due to COVID-19.

Health Officer Order

Due to this rapidly evolving situation and in alignment with the CDC guidance on mass gatherings from March 15, 2020, Health Officer Dr. Noemi Doohan has ordered a ban on all non-essential public or private gatherings of 50 people or more. For gatherings of 10-50 people, COVID-19 mitigation measures must be implemented, including social distancing by allowing all attendees to stand or sit at least six feet from any other attendee. A violation of an order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

Health Officer Recommendation

Mendocino County is monitoring the recent "shelter in place order" released today in a coordinated effort by the big 6 Bay Area counties (San Francisco, Marin, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Contra Costa and Alameda). This joint order, which can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2IOHTtR>, restricts non-essential activities including: travel outside the home, and directs business modification in those counties (please see San Mateo for examples: <https://www.smcgov.org/shelter-place-fags>). At this time, the Mendocino County Health Officer is releasing a recommendation that is in alignment with the Bay Area "shelter in place order." The Health Officer recommends that Mendocino County residents who have upcoming non-essential travel planned to any of the Bay Area counties are urged to cancel their plans. A recommendation is official guidance issued by the Health Officer.

Media Advisory

The Health Officer Dr. Noemi Mimi Doohan will hold a press conference updating the community on the COVID-19 situation and issued Public Health Order and Recommendation.

When: Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Where: County Administrative Center – **Board Chambers** – 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah, CA 95482

Who: Noemi Mimi Doohan, MD, PhD, Mendocino County Health Officer

Live Online: The press conference will be live streamed on the Mendocino County YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/MendocinoCountyVideo) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/mendocinocounty/).

This Press Conference forum is designed for media personnel, but the public is welcome to watch from the County's YouTube Channel) or Facebook page. For your benefit and the benefit of our community, we ask that you not attend work, school or community events in person if you have symptoms of influenza or other respiratory illness (i.e. cough, fever).

Attachment: ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO IMPOSING A MANDATORY COUNTYWIDE MORATORIUM ON GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN 50 PERSONS, AND A CONDITIONAL COUNTYWIDE MORATORIUM ON GATHERING BETWEEN 10 AND 50 PEOPLE TO MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING SHELTER IN PLACE

Mendocino County's Coronavirus Webpage: <http://bit.ly/mendoph>
Coronavirus Hotline: (707) 234-6052 or callcenter@mendocinocounty.org

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