



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

March 4, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ashley Toxqui

Phone: 707-463-7905

Email: toxquia@mendocinocounty.org

Mendocino County Makes Emergency Declaration to Prepare for Future Coronavirus (COVID-19) Activity

In partnership with Mendocino County Chief Executive Officer/Office of Emergency Services Director, Carmel J. Angelo and Mendocino County Health Officer, Dr. Noemi (Mimi) Doohan, the County has declared a public health emergency in order to prepare for future Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) activity in our community.

While **Mendocino County still has ZERO cases of COVID-19 and ZERO persons under investigation**, this emergency declaration has been made proactively as surrounding counties do have recent COVID-19 activity.

A declaration of emergency is a legal document that opens the door to further resources and coordination between local, state and federal agencies; helps speed up emergency planning; and, assists in emergency contracts or staffing. This declaration also allows for reimbursement by state and federal governments for local government initiatives that lessen the impact of an emergency.

“The situation surrounding this novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, continues to evolve rapidly,” said Dr. Doohan. “This declaration will allow us as a County to deploy additional state and federal resources, and I am confident that this will help us be as prepared as possible to respond to COVID-19 activity.”

Mendocino County has worked daily with local, state and national officials since early January to monitor and respond to COVID-19. Mendocino County Public Health is working in close coordination with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as health care providers throughout the Mendocino County.

More information will be shared tomorrow through Mendocino County's Press Conference on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). This information will be live streamed through the County's website. Sheriff Matt Kendall and County Health Officer Noemi Doohan will be presenting, in addition to other local dignitaries.

This Press Conference forum is designed for media personnel, but the public is welcome to watch from the County's YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/MendocinoCountyVideo) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/mendocinocounty/). 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).

Please visit www.mendocinocounty.org for the latest local news on COVID-19. For general health related questions or other concerns regarding COVID-19, please call Mendocino County's Call Center at (707) 234-6052 or email callcenter@mendocinocounty.org. The call center will be open during regular business hours, Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#