



Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Bekkie Emery, DOC Manager

H. Andrew Coren, MD, County Health Officer



DATE: April 20, 2021
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: H. Andrew Coren, MD, Health Officer
Bekkie Emery, DOC Manager
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update

Every level of our nation has been hit hard with the number of cases and deaths from COVID-19, the overall impact

Population	COVID-19 Cases		COVID-19 Deaths	
United State (328.2 Million)	31,633,705	9.6%	566,937	.17%
California (39.5 Million)	3,614,112	9.15%	59,690	.15%
Mendocino County (86,749)	3990	4.6%	47	.05%

Mendocino County's testing positivity rate is 1.94 meeting the ranking in the yellow tier, and percent positive cases is holding in the yellow tier at 1.4%. While this shows good progress, we need to continue in our efforts to minimize the exposure and spread of the virus with overall cases continuing to decrease. Currently there are 20 people isolating in their homes, there are no hospitalizations, and 47 people have passed away, resulting in the overall total number of cases as 3,990. We are finding that the cases are predominantly community spread.

We are holding in the Orange Tier, as of Thursday April 15th additional openings were approved by the State most of the increases are around the number of people now approved for an event or activity, but they did add Fairs are now approved at a 25% occupancy rate, with additional testing requirements for the individuals working the fair. Another recent change is the removal of occupancy limits to worship services, this was a result of a recent court ruling; however, there is still a strong recommendation to limit in-person attendance to no more than 50% in the Orange Tier.

I am happy to report that there are no outbreaks at this time and that we continue to track for outbreaks in our community, as well as partnering with schools to respond immediately should any students or staff test positive to limit exposure in support of continuing in-person education. We are also working with the schools to increase in-person education as they plan for summer school as well as the fall and of course how they incorporate safety measures into graduation plans.

Testing throughout California is still a struggle. In Mendocino County the traveling testing team has been up and running for three weeks and is progressing well in our ability to make this resource available to many more people in our county.

Optum Serve Sites will be operating as follows:

Event	Days	Hours
Ukiah – Redwood Empire Fairgrounds	Saturday – Thursday	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Ft. Bragg – Veterans Hall	Tuesday	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Rotation : Point Arena/Boonville, Laytonville/Willits, Gualala/Boonville, Round Valley/Willits	Friday 4/23 is set for Covelo/Willits	Location 1 – 9:00 - 12:00 Location 2 – 2:00 – 5:00

We've not had any new reports of variants, however, as we are working to ensure variant testing is occurring for Mendocino County positive tests with the Perkin-Elmer lab in effort to ensure a timely response. This is a slower process, especially with the number of positive cases from Mendocino County being so low in comparison.

Vaccines continue to be distributed throughout Mendocino County. As of April 19th, 64,898 vaccines have been recorded at the State level for Mendocino County, this is an increase of over 7,500 vaccines in two weeks. Outreach has been increased for in partnership with the schools for youth and is continuing with the agriculture community and LatinX leaders. We have had some challenges with vaccine access due to reallocation to the pharmacies on the Federal level and adding in the Johnson and Johnson hold. Keep in mind the Johnson and Johnson vaccine only accounted for 4% of the State allocations of vaccines, so the overall impact to our supply with this hold is minimal.

The Vaccine team is working diligently to administer vaccines to all eligible individuals. We are engaging schools and partnering with the Mendocino County Office of Education to make vaccines available to students over 16 years of age as well as their adult family members. The mobile testing unit continues to support nursing homes, homebound, inmates and other smaller groups.

Vaccine supplies are expected to start increasing with the approved vaccines. Keep in mind this will be a progressive increase in vaccines between now and June. Most of our Mendocino County partners have signed agreements with Blue Shield for vaccine access and distribution. We are continuing to collaborate through the transition to ensure stable vaccine supply especially around coordination of second doses. Adventist Health is pulling back on their large scaled vaccine events and will be partnering with the County to support collaborative events. Also on the State level My Turn is continuing to making improvements, addressing access both online and telephonically.

Mendocino County is clearly moving in the right direction, community members are encouraged to continue masking, social distancing and regular hand washing in effort to continue on this path of decreasing cases and supporting our community in moving forward.