

CARMEL J. ANGELO  
Chief Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board



**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

CONTACT INFORMATION  
501 Low Gap Road • Room 1010  
Ukiah, California 95482  
TELEPHONE: (707) 463-4221  
FAX: (707) 463-7237  
Email: [bos@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:bos@mendocinocounty.org)  
Web: [www.mendocinocounty.org/government/board-of-supervisors](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/board-of-supervisors)

**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER  
OF THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO IMPOSING A MANDATORY COUNTYWIDE  
MORATORIUM ON GATHERINGS OF 50 OR MORE 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**

**DATE OF ORDER: MARCH 17, 2020**

**Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code 120295, *et seq.*)**

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 101085 AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO ("HEALTH OFFICER") ORDERS:

1. Effective as of 12:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 7, 2020, nonessential public or private gatherings of 50 people or more are hereby prohibited in Mendocino County ("County").
2. Effective as of 12:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 7, 2020, nonessential public or private gatherings between 10 and 50 persons defined below, are hereby prohibited in the County unless hosts or sponsors implement all of the COVID-19 risk mitigation measures, as defined below.
3. Although gatherings of less than 50 persons are not prohibited if hosts or sponsors implement each of the COVID-19 risk mitigation measures, the Health Officer strongly urges hosts and sponsors to cancel all such gatherings.
4. While there are ZERO known cases of COVID-19 in the County, this Order is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 in our region, and scientific evidence regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, as well as best practices as currently known and available to protect vulnerable members of the public from avoidable risk for serious illness or death resulting from exposure to COVID-19. The age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the County places it at risk for complications, including death from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, persons with mild symptoms and asymptomatic persons with COVID-19 may place other vulnerable members of the public at a significant risk.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

CARRE BROWN  
First District

JOHN MCCOWEN  
Second District

JOHN HASCHAK  
Third District

DAN GJERDE  
Fourth District

TED WILLIAMS  
Fifth District

5. This Order will further reduce the likelihood that many individuals will be exposed to COVID-19 in our community. By reducing the spread of COVID-19, this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the County.
6. This Order will further reduce potential for new cases resulting from exposures at gatherings whose origins and contacts are difficult to trace. Accordingly, the Order will enhance the County's ability to identify the source of any cases and contain further spread of COVID-19.
7. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the March 4, 2020, Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, the March 4, 2020, Proclamation by the Director of Emergency Services Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency in the County, the March 4, 2020, Declaration of Local Health Emergency Regarding Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) issued by the Health Officer, the March 10, 2020, Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino Ratifying and Extending the Declaration of a Local Health Emergency and Proclamation of a Local Emergency.
8. This Order is issued to prevent circumstances often present in gatherings that may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19, such as: (a) the increased likelihood that gatherings will attract people from a broad geographic area; (b) the prolonged time period in which significant numbers of people are in close proximity; (c) the difficulty in tracing exposure when many people attend a single event; and (d) the inability to ensure that attendees follow adequate hygienic practices for many gatherings.
9. Definitions.
  - a. For the purposes of this Order, a "nonessential gathering" is any event or convening that brings together ten (10) or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria, theater, restaurant, bar, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.
  - b. A "nonessential gathering" does not include office environments, classrooms, medical offices, hospitals, or clinics; or retail, pharmacy, or grocery stores.
  - c. For purposes of this Order, "COVID-19 risk mitigation measures" include all of the following:
    - i. The space in which the gathering is held must accommodate social distancing by allowing all attendees to stand or sit at least six feet from any other attendee;
    - ii. Proper hand hygiene and sanitation material must be readily available to all persons at all times, including soap and waste receptacles. If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer can be used.
    - iii. Persons hosting gatherings must alert prospective attendees at least 24 hours prior to the gathering that gatherings pose a heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission, and that older adults and individuals with existing health conditions are at particularly serious risk and should not attend;
    - iv. Where applicable, persons hosting gatherings must allow prospective attendees to cancel their attendance at no cost up until the time of the event, and fully reimburse them for the price of attendance; and
    - v. Persons hosting gatherings must clean surfaces with disinfecting wipes or other standard cleaners before, during and after the event.
10. To the extent the Sheriff or any chief of police has any questions regarding the definition of a "gathering" under this Order, the Health Officer hereby delegates authority to the County Counsel to answer such questions in writing.
11. Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order.

12. This Order shall become effective at 12:00 a.m. on March 17, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until 11:59 p.m. on April 7, 2020, or until it is earlier rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer or by the State Public Health Officer.
13. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at County of Mendocino Executive Office, County Administration Building, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah, California 95482 (2) posted on the County website [www.mendocinocounty.org](http://www.mendocinocounty.org) and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

**IN ADDITION TO THE FORGOING ORDERS, THE HEALTH OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

1. The intent of this Recommendation is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible. When people need to leave their places of residence, whether to obtain or perform vital services, or to otherwise facilitate authorized activities necessary for continuity of social and commercial life, they should at all times reasonably possible comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 7 below. All provisions of this Recommendation should be interpreted to effectuate this intent.
2. All individuals currently living within Mendocino County (the "County") are recommended to shelter at their place of residence. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they should at all times as reasonably possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence. All persons should leave their residences only for Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses, all as defined in Section 7. Individuals experiencing homelessness are strongly urged to obtain shelter, and governmental and other entities are strongly urged to make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable (and to utilize Social Distancing Requirements in their operation).
3. All businesses with a facility in the County, except Essential Businesses as defined below in Section 7, are advised to cease all activities at facilities located within the County except Minimum Basic Operations, as defined in Section 7. For clarity, businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home). All Essential Businesses are strongly encouraged to remain open. To the greatest extent feasible, Essential Businesses should comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 7 below, including, but not limited to, when any customers are standing in line.
4. All travel, including, but not limited to, travel on foot, bicycle, scooter, motorcycle, automobile, or public transit, except Essential Travel and Essential Activities as defined below in Section 7, is advised against. People should use public transit only for purposes of performing Essential Activities or to travel to and from work to operate Essential Businesses or maintain Essential Governmental Functions. People riding on public transit should comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 7 below, to the greatest extent feasible. This Recommendation allows travel into or out of the County to perform Essential Activities, operate Essential Businesses, or maintain Essential Governmental Functions.
5. This Recommendation is issued based on evidence of increasing occurrence of COVID-19 throughout the Bay Area, scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, and evidence that the age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the County places it at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in the region, which is now a pandemic according to the World Health Organization, there is a public health emergency throughout the County. Making the problem worse, some individuals who contract the COVID-19 virus have no symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means they should

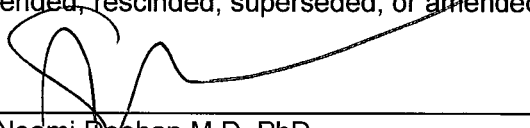
not be aware they carry the virus. Because even people without symptoms can transmit the disease, and because evidence shows the disease is easily spread, gatherings can result in preventable transmission of the virus. The scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. One proven way to slow the transmission is to limit interactions among people to the greatest extent practicable. By reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this Recommendation helps preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the County.

6. This Recommendation comes after the release of substantial guidance from the County Health Officer, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health, and other public health officials throughout the United States and around the world, including a variety of prior orders to combat the spread and harms of COVID-19. The Health Officer will continue to assess the quickly evolving situation and should modify or extend this Recommendation, or issue additional Recommendations, related to COVID-19.
7. Definitions and Exemptions.
  - a. For purposes of this Recommendation, individuals should leave their residence only to perform any of the following “Essential Activities.” But people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to stay in their residence to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care.
    - i. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home.
    - ii. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.
    - iii. To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, or running.
    - iv. To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Recommendation, including Minimum Basic Operations.
    - v. To care for a family member or pet in another household.
  - b. For purposes of this Recommendation, individuals should leave their residence to work for or obtain services at any “Healthcare Operations” including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, home healthcare services providers, mental health providers, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. “Healthcare Operations” also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare, broadly defined. “Healthcare Operations” does not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities.
  - c. For purposes of this Recommendation, individuals should leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to the operations and maintenance of “Essential Infrastructure,” including, but not limited to, public works construction, construction of housing (in particular affordable housing or housing for individuals experiencing homelessness), airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined this Section, to the extent possible.

- d. For purposes of this Recommendation, all first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, and law enforcement personnel, and others who need to perform essential services are categorically exempt from this Recommendation. Further, nothing in this Recommendation shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing “Essential Governmental Functions,” as determined by the governmental entity performing those functions. Each governmental entity shall identify and designate appropriate employees or contractors to continue providing and carrying out any Essential Governmental Functions. All Essential Governmental Functions shall be performed in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, to the extent possible.
- e. For the purposes of this Recommendation, covered businesses include any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless of the nature of the service, the function they perform, or its corporate or entity structure.
- f. For the purposes of this Recommendation, “Essential Businesses” means:
- i. Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure;
  - ii. Grocery stores, certified farmers’ markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;
  - iii. Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing;
  - iv. Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
  - v. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
  - vi. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities;
  - vii. Banks and related financial institutions;
  - viii. Hardware stores;
  - ix. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses;
  - x. Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
  - xi. Educational institutions—including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities—for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible;
  - xii. Laundromats, drycleaners, and laundry service providers;
  - xiii. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out. Schools and other entities that typically provide free food services to students or members of the public should continue to do so under this Recommendation on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and take-away basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site;
  - xiv. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;
  - xv. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate;
  - xvi. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;
  - xvii. Taxis and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Recommendation;
  - xviii. Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;
  - xix. Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;

- xx. Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities;
  - xxi. Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Recommendation to work as permitted. To the extent possible, childcare facilities should operate under the following conditions:
    - a. Childcare should be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer ("stable" means that the same 12 or fewer children are in the same group each day).
    - b. Children should not change from one group to another.
    - c. If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other.
    - d. Childcare providers should remain solely with one group of children.
  - g. For the purposes of this Recommendation, "Minimum Basic Operations" include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined this Section, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:
    - i. The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions.
    - ii. The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.
  - h. For the purposes of this Recommendation, "Essential Travel" includes travel for any of the following purposes. Individuals engaged in any Essential Travel should comply with all Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section below.
    - i. Any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Businesses, or Minimum Basic Operations.
    - ii. Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.
    - iii. Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services.
    - iv. Travel to return to a place of residence from outside the jurisdiction.
    - v. Travel required by law enforcement or court order.
    - vi. Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the County. Individuals are strongly encouraged to verify that their transportation out of the County remains available and functional prior to commencing such travel.
  - i. For purposes of this Recommendation, residences include hotels, motels, shared rental units and similar facilities.
  - j. For purposes of this Recommendation, "Social Distancing Requirements" includes maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.
8. This Recommendation is effective for the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. on March 17, 2020 and through 11:59 p.m. on April 7, 2020, and may be extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.

Date: 3/17/2020

Issued by: 

Time: 854 am

Noemi Dohan M.D. PhD.,  
Interim Health Officer, County of Mendocino