



## **Summary of Changes: Health Officer's Shelter-In-Place Order Dated April 10, 2020, Effective Until May 10, 2020**

The Mendocino County Health Officer has released a revised Shelter in Place Order that goes into effect at 10:00 P.M. on April 10, 2020. That order clarifies, modifies, and replaces the Shelter in Place Order issued on March 24, 2020. To help the public understand what's new, the Health Officer is releasing this summary of changes.

### **Essential Businesses Must Post a Social Distancing Protocol**

On April 3, 2020, the Health Officer released guidance encouraging essential businesses to create and post a social distancing protocol for their customers and employees. The new order now requires essential businesses to do so by April 13, 2020.

### **Essential Businesses Must Scale Down**

This order clarifies that when a single business performs work that is both essential and non-essential, only the essential part of the business is allowed to remain open. For example, automotive dealerships are allowed to keep their service department open, but may not conduct in-person sales. The exception is retail—a retail business selling essential goods may continue to stock and sell nonessential goods at the same location.

Additionally, this order requires that essential businesses maximize the number of employees who work from home.

### **Parks Remain Closed to Most Uses, but Agencies can Now Choose to Allow Hiking or Jogging by Nearby Residents, with Certain Limitations and Conditions**

Each agency will need to make this determination for its own parks, based on whether it believes that it can safely allow these activities, whether the location can accommodate the social distancing requirements in the order, and whether nearby residents need these spaces for outdoor exercise during the pandemic.

Unless and until they have posted their social distancing protocol and other signage, these parks remain closed.

If a park agency allows limited recreational uses that adhere to the Health Order such as walking, hiking, or jogging, by nearby residents who lack space to exercise, this only applies to those locations that choose to open, and they must prepare and post a social distancing protocol before doing so.

Please note that any recreational sites that choose to allow these activities will only be open to those residents who walk or bike from their house, or who meet certain other travel restrictions in the order. Additionally, they will only be open for limited activities, and certain areas in the parks will have to remain closed. If your local park decides to allow these activities, please carefully review and follow its social distancing protocol before entering. Residents are advised to check with Park agencies prior to visiting park locations to verify if the park is open.

Parks and other recreation areas pose a particular public health risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, because their normal uses draw people from different households for activities that have a heightened risk of spreading the disease. These new orders recognize that these places have an important role to play for exercise and health of the community but impose key restrictions to protect against the spread of the virus. The Health Officer, however, has recognized that it may not be possible to safely adhere to these restrictions in some locations, and has specified that individual parks might be closed on a case by case basis in the event of crowding.

### **Essential Activities are Clarified and Expanded**

The new orders make a number of clarification and modifications to which “Essential Activities” are allowed. A few key changes include:

- In addition to being permitted to walk, jog, hike or bike one’s residence, if it is unsafe for a person to do these activities at their residence or directly from their residence, a person may drive a short distance to the nearest location where they may safely exercise.
- The Order clarifies that sports or other activities that require the use of share equipment are not permitted, unless the use of the equipment can be limited to only the members of a single household or living unit.

- Funerals with no more than 10 individuals present, and at which members of different households or living units maintain social distancing from each other.
- The Order adds that moving residences when it is not possible to defer a move, is an essential activity.

### **Permissible Construction has Been Clarified**

The types of construction that are permitted has been refined to allow the following categories:

- Projects immediately necessary to the maintenance, operation, or repair of Essential Infrastructure;
- Projects associated with Healthcare Operations, including creating or expanding Healthcare Operations, provided that such construction is directly related to the COVID-19 response;
- Housing;
- Public works projects;
- Shelters and temporary housing;
- Projects immediately necessary to provide critical non- commercial services to individuals experiencing homelessness, elderly persons, persons who are economically disadvantaged, and persons with special needs;
- Construction necessary to ensure that existing construction sites that must be shut down under this Order are left in a safe and secure manner, but only to the extent necessary to do so; and
- Construction or repair necessary to ensure that certain buildings are safe, sanitary, or habitable to the extent such construction or repair cannot reasonably be delayed;
- Construction related to any Essential Infrastructure.

### **Essential Business is Clarified and Expanded**

There were numerous clarification and changes to the definition of essential business under the Shelter in Place Order. A few of the significant changes are:

- The Order clarifies that gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair include cars, trucks, motorcycles and motorized scooters, and that only the auto supply and repair portion of a car dealership is essential, but that the online purchase of vehicles, if the vehicles are delivered to a residence or essential business is allowed.

- The Order includes as Essential Businesses service providers that enable real estate transactions including rentals, leases, and home sales as essential businesses, so long as much business as possible is conducted remotely, and viewing are conducted only in compliance with the limitations provided.
- The Order includes as Essential Businesses arborists, landscapers, gardeners, and similar service professionals, but not for work done for purely cosmetic purposes.
- The Order clarifies that business that provide other essential businesses may not use their exemption to engage in sales to the general public from retail storefronts.
- The Order adds notary as an Essential Business, but only for non-elective, legally mandated activities.

### **Minimum Basic Operations are Clarified and Expanded**

The Order expands Minimum Basic Operations to allow for delivery or curbside pick-up of existing inventory, and to allow nonprofit entities and other venues, such as concert halls, auditoriums, churches, temples, playhouses, to operate their venue with up to four people to record and/or livestream and event, if social distancing rules are followed, including maintaining at least six feet social distancing from other individuals (physical distancing not required for members of the same household), frequently washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer that is recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as effective in combatting COVID-19, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, not shaking hands, and those who are not on camera, to wear facial coverings as much as possible, and signing and the use of wind instruments are permitted only if the recording is done at one's residence and involves only the members of one's household or living unit.

### **Essential Travel is Clarified and Expanded**

The Order adds several categories of Essential Travel, including:

- Travel to manage after-death arrangements and burial;
- Travel to arrange for shelter or avoid homelessness;
- Travel to avoid domestic violence or child abuse;

- Travel for parental custody arrangements; and
- Travel to a place to temporarily reside in a residence or other facility to avoid potentially exposing others to COVID-19, such as a hotel or other facility provided by a governmental authority for such purposes.