The Mendocino County Health Officer has prepared a Stage 2 Health Officer Order upon Governor Newsom’s statewide modifications (pursuant to the Resilience Roadmap) to the Stay-At-Home Order modified effective today, Friday, May 8, 2020.

In accordance with the statewide directives, and in light of the collective efforts taken to date in Mendocino County to slow the virus’ trajectory, the Health Officer’s Stage 2 Order allows additional lower risk business activities to resume while the Health Officer continues to locally monitor certain COVID-19 indicators. These indicators include the trend in the number of new COVID-19 cases, the capacity of our local and regional health systems, the supply of personal protective equipment available for healthcare providers, the ability and capacity to accurately test for COVID-19, and the ability to conduct case investigation and contact tracing for the volume of cases and persons exposed to the same.

The Stage 2 Order identifies new “lower risk businesses”, such as all retail establishments (allowed to operate by curbside pickup), manufacturing (urging work in stable groups of 12), and construction (pursuant to the “Construction Safety Protocol” in Appendix B), and provided that each sector (prior to opening and every two weeks): (1) perform and detailed risk assessment and implement a site-specific protection plan; (2) train employees on how to limit the spread of COVID-19; (3) implement individual control measures and screenings; (4) implement disinfecting protocol and (5) implement social distancing guidelines. Additionally each industry must comply with adaptations, including following industry specific guidance issued by the State (https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/#guidance), and must create (or continue to maintain) and post a Social Distancing & Hygiene Protocol, such as in Appendix A. The Stage 2 Order also identifies as “lower risk”, workers providing cleaning and disinfection services; and animal hygiene and care, not purely for cosmetic purposes, e.g., dog grooming for health and safety reasons during foxtail and tick season, while following social distancing requirements between owners and all staff.

The Stage 2 Order also allows for certain “outdoor businesses” such as golf courses, horseback riding facilities (and other recreational facilities) and services such as those provided by landscapers and gardeners (to the extent not purely for aesthetic purposes) and environmental site remediation, which normally operated primarily outdoors prior to the first Shelter-in-Place Order, provided such businesses and services providers are able to fully maintain social distancing of at least six feet between all persons, and establish Social Distancing & Hygiene Protocol. Golf courses are required to follow the “Recreational Safety Protocol COVID-19 Prevention (Golf)”, and other recreational facilities should develop similar industry-specific Recreational Safety Protocols for approval by the Health Officer. For clarity, this expansion of outdoor businesses does not include outdoor restaurants, cafes, or bars.

Essential Activities have been expanded by the Stage 2 Order to include a wide-range of activities that can be done within 50 miles (as measured by a straight line on a map) of one’s residence by household unit, including golfing, swimming, surfing, kayaking, canoeing, among other activities. In addition people
in a household unit or other Stable Groups of 12 or less (defined as a group of 12 or less members over a 30 day time period), may recreate in their vehicles (within the same 50 mile restriction) to a location for outdoor recreation, to attend a ceremony or event through live-streamed or video-recorded event, while remaining in one’s car, or simply to engage in recreational driving or boating, with proper social distancing, facial coverings and other protective measures. Outdoor recreation at parks, beaches and other open spaces may occur with restrictions on access as provided by the entity managing such areas. Sports or activities that include the use of shared equipment or physical contact may only be engaged in by members of the same household or living unit, or by children (age 12 or under) in stable groups of 12. The use of shared facilities for recreational activities may occur by individuals, those within the same household unit, or by children in stable groups of 12, at golf courses, skate parks, athletic fields, shooting and archery ranges, basketball courts, tennis courts, horseback riding (singles), disc golf, dog parks, boat ramps, and animal-related recreation facilities.

Essential Activities have also been expanded to include performing volunteer work in groups of 12 individuals or less (including staff) as long as members of different households maintain social distancing from one another. The Order also allows people in Mendocino County to move residences without limitation, provided that those who move into or outside the County observe the CDC guidance recommending 14 day quarantine to monitor for symptoms in case they are asymptomatic.

The Stage 2 Order expands “essential businesses” to allow real estate showings by one buying party as long as agents follow the State COVID-19 Industry Guidance (https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-real-estate.pdf), the house is unoccupied during the showing and no one in the house has been in isolation or quarantine (or had COVID-19 related symptoms) for 14 days or more prior to the showing. In addition, automobile dealerships may conduct auto sales with strict adherence to the newly issued State COVID-19 Industry Guidance, (https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-auto-dealerships.pdf).

Childcare and other programs providing care or supervision for children continue to be essential and have been expanded to enable all families to perform Essential Activities and to enable those to perform work as allowed under the Order. Such childcare programs and institutions must comply with CDC Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces; and be carried out in a Stable Group of 12 or fewer children with minimal changes to that group as necessary to accommodate the needs of a child, unexpected change in parent’s occupation or work schedule, or due to other extraordinary circumstances. Providers must remain solely with one group of children and must also not change groups more than once every 4 weeks. Additionally, social distancing in such programs and institutions is only required for children age 13 and older.