



# Public Health Mōno-Gram

Tom Boo, MD, FAAFP, DTM&H  
Public Health Officer  
Phone: 760.924.1828  
[tboo@mono.ca.gov](mailto:tboo@mono.ca.gov)

Sandra Pearce, MS, RN, PHN, CNS  
Public Health Director  
Phone: 760.924.1818  
[spearce@mono.ca.gov](mailto:spearce@mono.ca.gov)

[www.monohealth.com](http://www.monohealth.com)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2020

## **Mono County Declares a Local Health Emergency**

In order to protect the health of our community, the Mono County Public Health Officer, Dr. Tom Boo, declared a local health emergency today. Dr. Boo anticipates cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Eastern Sierra in the immediate future, and the purpose of this declaration is to enhance the County's ability to prepare and respond to cases when they are identified. Declaring a local health emergency gives the Mono County Health Officer special additional legal authorities to protect the health of the community and to obtain additional resources as needed, as there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of COVID-19 in Mono County.

There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Mono County at this time, however this virus has sickened more than 160,00 people around the world, over 3,700 in the United States and over 330 in California. The disease has also killed over 6,400 worldwide.

Mono County Public Health Department's response efforts began over a month ago, and team members have been actively identifying and monitoring individuals who may be at risk of exposure to COVID-19. They have also been working closely with local health care providers and facilitating COVID-19 testing, and collaborating with county and town governance, law enforcement, emergency medical services, school districts, and other organizations to prepare and protect the community. A joint Emergency Operations Center has been opened by Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes to manage the COVID-19 incident.

Governor Newsom announced additional actions today to address the spread of COVID-19, including:

- Home isolation of all seniors in the state of California ages 65 years and older and those with chronic conditions. He has 13 taskforces working on logistics, food, water, fuel and basic supplies.
- Closing bars, nightclubs and wineries. He indicated restaurants could remain open, but would need to reduce occupancy and increase social distancing.
- Sheltering homeless individuals. The Governor indicated strategies, such as the utilization of shelters and hotels, with social distancing implemented.

---

*Mono County - Healthy People, Healthy Communities*

Mono County Health Department PO Box 3329, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Mono County Board of Supervisors: Phone (760) 932-5433

District 1: Jennifer Kreitz, District 2: Fred Stump, District 3: Bob Gardner,

District 4: John Peters, District 5: Stacy Corless, CAO: Steve Barwick

- Limiting visits to skilled nursing facilities, congregate care facilities and hospital visits to end of life visits only.

Older people and people with serious medical conditions, like heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes, should take extra steps to protect themselves from COVID-19. There are simple things everyone should do now at work, home, school, and in the community to reduce the spread of COVID-19, as well as flu and common colds:

- Wash your hands frequently using soap for at least 20 seconds and lathering your palms, fingers, fingertips, backs of your hands and under your nails.
- When no handwashing facilities are available, disinfect your hands with alcohol sanitizer (containing 60% or more alcohol).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay away from others when you are sick, particularly by staying home from work or school.
- Cover your mouth with tissue or your arm when coughing or sneezing (not your hand). If available, you may wear a surgical mask when you are sick to protect people around you.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Encourage employees and students to stay home from work or school when they are sick.
- Businesses can encourage sick customers and clients to complete business through phone, email, video conferencing or other means which do not require face-to-face interactions when possible.
- Practice “social distancing” maintaining 6 feet between people, and avoid shaking hands.
- If you have symptoms of cough and fever but are not seriously ill, please stay at home under self-quarantine. However, if you are seriously ill, you should go to the Emergency Department for care. If you need an ambulance, let the 911 dispatcher know that you have symptoms that might mean COVID-19.

With the closure of Eastern Sierra schools and Mammoth and June Mountains, it is time to plan for disruption to daily life at home and work. During this time we ask that all residents, businesses and local organizations remain calm, stay informed, and heed public health precautions.

“This is a very serious situation and we need to act now to reduce the harm this virus will do to our community,” said Dr. Boo, Mono County Public Health Officer. “These will be challenging times, but we will get through this as a community. We will be OK.”

For current and reliable COVID-19 information, visit [monocounty.ca.gov/coronavirus](http://monocounty.ca.gov/coronavirus), [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov), or [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).



**COUNTY OF MONO  
DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code authorizes local health officers to declare a local health emergency within the health officer's jurisdiction, or any portion thereof, whenever the health officer reasonably determines that there is an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mono County Health Officer's jurisdiction consists of the unincorporated areas of the County of Mono and the incorporated Town of Mammoth Lakes within Mono County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mono County Health Officer makes the following findings:

A novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the virus to be a very serious public health threat, based on current information. In part, the virus is considered a serious public health threat because much is unknown. The precise modes of transmission, the factors facilitating human-to-human transmission, the extent of asymptomatic viral shedding, the attack rate, and the case fatality rate all remain active areas of investigation. The best information to date suggests that the virus is spread between people primarily via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and infected individuals have experienced a range of outcomes, from mild sickness to severe illness and death. Older people and people with certain underlying health conditions like heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, for example, seem to be at greater risk of serious illness. The CDC believes at this time that symptoms appear two to fourteen days after exposure. Currently, there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19.

This pandemic has demonstrated potential to severely impact hospitals and healthcare systems; it has overwhelmed the capacity to deliver care in other parts of the world.

There are currently over 135,000 cases and 3,337 total deaths. Cases of COVID-19, though initially concentrated in China, have been reported in over 100 countries and Europe is presently considered the epicenter. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization categorized COVID-19 as a pandemic.

Approximately 11,500 people are self-monitoring, across 49 local health jurisdictions, after returning to the U.S. from travel. As of March 14, 2020, there have been over 2,000 confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. with a death count reported

of approximately 50. The number of reported cases of COVID-19 has escalated dramatically over a short period of time and community spread is confirmed to be occurring in California. To date, there are approximately 300 positive cases in California and 5 deaths. On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the state prepare for broader spread of COVID-19. On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared the COVID-10 pandemic a national emergency.


Actions are being taken to protect public health and limit the spread of COVID-19 in the U.S. The U.S. Department of State and the CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel, the U.S. has banned entry from foreign nationals who have recently been in certain European countries and state and local officials are implementing and encouraging social-distancing measures, including prohibitions of non-essential large gatherings.

The Health Officer anticipates cases in the Eastern Sierra in the near future and the purpose of this declaration is to enhance the County’s ability to prepare and respond to cases when they are identified. Declaring a local health emergency gives the Mono County Health Officer special additional legal authorities to protect the health of the community and to obtain additional resources as needed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Health Officer of the County of Mono does hereby find that there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of COVID-19 in Mono County.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Health Officer of the County of Mono hereby declares that a local health emergency now exists in the County Mono on the basis of the above findings and facts, which are hereby incorporated by this reference.

**IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED** that during the existence of said local health emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the Mono County Health Officer shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of this County, and; that this local health emergency declaration shall expire in 7 days after issuance unless reviewed and ratified by the board of supervisors of the County of Mono.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Boo, MD  
Mono County Health Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
3/15/2020  
Date