



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Mono County Health Department and Mammoth Hospital**

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## **MONO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND MAMMOTH HOSPITAL RESPOND TO INCREASING SPREAD OF COVID-19**

*April 8, 2020* – In response to the Coronavirus pandemic sweeping across the country and its existence in Mono County, one of the primary objectives of the Unified Command Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is to mitigate the speed of COVID19 spread (flatten the curve) throughout Mono County. For the past three weeks, the Mono County Public Health Officer has implemented several timely and aggressive public health orders aligned with Governor Newsom’s Stay At Home Executive Order of March 19, 2020. This unprecedented order requires all Californians to stay at home except as necessary to maintain critical infrastructure or to perform essential functions (such as buying food or going to the doctor). The Order is in place until further notice.

The Public Health Officer applauds Mono County residents for taking these measures very seriously and for all working together to defeat the indiscriminate spread of the virus. Mono County has experienced a dramatic 55 - 70% decrease in the average mobility (based on distance traveled) of residents during the past few weeks. This puts Mono County near the top of the statewide Social Distancing Scoreboard. This necessary change in behavior combined with physical distancing (6+ feet), frequent hand washing and covering your mouth and nose with a face covering in public should significantly reduce deaths and the impact on our very limited health care resources.

The EOC continues to explore tactics and measures to flatten the curve, or in our case, how we can ‘crush the curve’ in Mono County, which we need to do because we have one of the highest per-capita rates of positive cases in California. One of the actions currently being pursued by the EOC is the implementation of intermittent checkpoints on State Route 203 and the Mammoth Scenic Loop in an

effort to reduce the amount of non-essential travel through education, including the number of people coming to Mammoth Lakes for non-essential purposes.

Highway 203 is a State Highway under the jurisdiction of the State of California. Only the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) can authorize a checkpoint that could be implemented by local law enforcement. Mammoth Hospital made such request to Governor Newsom and separately, Sheriff Braun made the same request to the Caltrans District 9 Office on behalf of the EOC on March 29, 2020. At this time, we have not received a formal response from the State.

We are cautiously optimistic that the lack of COVID-19 hospitalizations for almost two weeks means Staying At Home is reducing COVID-19 in the community, but it is too early to get our hopes up. This is a very serious situation and now, more than ever, we must be vigilant about following guidance and directives in order to flatten the curve, to decrease the strain on our local health care system, and to save lives.

Distance. Wash. Cover and #StayHomeMono!

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*Please utilize the resources below for local information about the coronavirus.*

Call: 211 (English & Spanish) | Website: [MonoHealth.com/Coronavirus](https://www.monohealth.com/coronavirus) Facebook.com/MonoHealthDepartment |

[Instagram.com/MonoCountyHealthDepartment](https://www.instagram.com/MonoCountyHealthDepartment) | [Twitter.com/CountyMono](https://twitter.com/CountyMono)

Mammoth Lakes Short-Term Rental Hotline (760) 965-3670 or [TOT@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](mailto:TOT@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov)

Mono County COVID-19 Violations: [covid19violations@mono.ca.gov](mailto:covid19violations@mono.ca.gov).

Emergency Operations Center (760) 932-5650