



Public Health Mōno-Gram

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www.monohealth.com/Coronavirus

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mono County Health Department and Mammoth Hospital

MONO COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER, DR. TOM BOO SHARES SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE WEEK JUST PAST AND THE WEEK AHEAD

March 29, 2020 - The reality of four cases of severe COVID-19 between last Saturday and now is extremely alarming, suggesting that a crushing wave of very sick people is coming soon. But evidence indicates that Mono County residents are taking this very seriously and distancing themselves from one another to a great degree. Cellular telephone mobility data show that people in Mono have decreased their mobility more than almost any other jurisdiction in the state, except for Napa County.

C'mon Mono lets beat Napa!

This is hard, this is deeply concerning. But kudos to our community for doing the right thing to protect ourselves and each other. Remember each infection prevented could save more than one life. We do not yet know just how much all our efforts to distance will slow this epidemic down. I see the week ahead and the week after that as critical to understanding what is coming and when.

The hospital continues its urgent preparations for a surge of COVID-19 victims. We are all worried that a situation is coming in which there are more really ill people than the hospital can care for, and there is no place to transfer people because all the big hospital ICUs are full of COVID-19 patients. In that situation people will die because we just do not have the medical resources. The additional ventilators the hospital had ordered are apparently not coming as soon as they had been expected, because

hospitals all across the country are desperately seeking ventilators. Therefore, I have put in a request for ventilators, as well as oxygen concentrators, through the California Disaster Health/Medical aid system, but I don't know when the state will be able to fulfill the request.

The situation is dire.

That is why all the things we as a community are doing to slow the spread of the disease matter so much. In the Unified Town/County Incident Command we are always thinking about what else we can do to encourage people to physically distance themselves from others, and to wash their hands, cover their mouths and clean common surfaces. We are trying to respond to complaints from the community about situations that aren't in line with the "Stay At Home" Order, or people or businesses that don't seem to get it. We encourage concerned residents to call the Emergency Operations Center at (760) 932-5650 to tell us about situations that may pose a hazard to public health.

We feel that stores currently pose some risk of transmission and will work with the essential businesses that are operating to encourage safer practices, including limiting the number of people allowed in a store at a given time.

And when things get worse, when the hospital begins to feel the pressure of more critically ill people and it's getting hard to transfer to other hospitals, I expect we will ask all businesses to close and all people to curtail their activities for a little while, to try to slow the epidemic even more and buy any additional time that we can.

With more time, we hope to have more resources, from ventilators to tests to personal protective equipment, to better fight COVID-19.

Stay well and please #STAYHOMEMONO!

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

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

[Facebook.com/MonoHealthDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/MonoHealthDepartment) [Instagram.com/MonoCountyHealthDepartment](https://www.instagram.com/MonoCountyHealthDepartment) |

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