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DAILY BRIEFING | CORONAVIRUS 19 PANDEMIC

Unified Command update: March 18, 2020 | 4:00 p.m.

<https://monocounty.ca.gov/coronavirus>

TESTING UPDATE

Tests Administered:	27
Tests Pending:	22
Tests Negative:	5
Positive Tests:	0

Testing Information: Mammoth Hospital is responsible for performing testing for COVID 19. Due to the shortage of test kits, Mammoth Hospital is unable to test patients with mild COVID-19 symptoms such as fever or cough. The same test kit shortage means we also are limiting our testing for influenza and RSV. We need to save these tests for those who are very sick.

A note from the Public Health Officer: These testing numbers do not reflect the reality that this virus is certainly here circulating in our community, and probably has been for a few weeks. We should all assume that the risk is immediate and real and take appropriate precautions. Please be aware that many people have mild disease and may not know that they are infected and capable of spreading COVID-19 to other people. This disease can kill people so please change your behavior now if you have not already done so, to protect yourselves and others.

PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGE

NEW: WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS

While COVID-19 symptoms may be mild, severe symptoms including fever, cough and shortness of breath could indicate infection. If you develop severe symptoms, call your doctor, nearest clinic, or emergency department. Please do not show up unannounced! If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19, get medical attention immediately. In adults, emergency warning signs* include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptom that is severe or concerning.

With the exception of seeking medical care, it is best to stay home when you are sick until you have met the following:

- No fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)
AND
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved)
AND
- At least 7-days have passed since your symptoms first appeared

Please take steps to minimize the spread of COVID19 and other circulating illnesses by following the precautions specified on the Mono County Coronavirus Response Portal homepage at <https://monocounty.ca.gov/coronavirus>.

MONO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES

In order to reduce the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic the State of California has directed, and the Mono County Health Department orders the following, effective at **10:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2020:**

- All bars, breweries and wine-tasting venues in Mono County shall close, excluding production facilities that do not include any customer or other public contact.
- All restaurants shall be closed for indoor or outdoor seated dining and may be open only to drive-through or other pick-up or delivery option.
- Bars, breweries and pubs that include full meals provided by a full kitchen should follow restaurant guidance and may provide delivery or pick-up options.
- Coffee shops fall under restaurants may continue to offer pick-up service but provide no indoor or outdoor seating for customers.
- All pick up areas shall limit customer waiting areas to no more than 6 people, providing adequate space for six (6) feet of separation between waiting customers and provide for hand sanitation.
- Health clubs and gyms are to be closed.
- Theatres, bowling alleys and other indoor recreations venues should close.

Due to the imminent threat to public health Mono County has declared a Local Health Emergency for the County and Town of Mammoth Lakes, which gives the County Health Officer, Dr. Tom Boo, broad authority under state law to take actions as needed to protect the health of the public.

Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes are actively responding to the pandemic in a Unified Command Emergency Operational Center led by Mammoth Lakes Fire Chief Frank Frievalt, Town of Mammoth Lakes Manager Dan Holler, County Chief Administrative Officer Steve Barwick and County Health Officer Dr Tom Boo.

The Unified Town/County response structure incorporates Mammoth Hospital and we are coordinating with Inyo County public health and healthcare facilities as part of the Mono-Inyo Healthcare Coalition, under the guidance of state and federal the COVID-19 response.

IN-PERSON COMMUNITY MEETINGS CANCELLED

Mono County Public Health has **canceled the following** COVID-19 Community Meetings:

- Wednesday March 18, 2020 @ Walker Senior Center 12:30pm – 2:00pm
- Wednesday March 18, 2020 @ Memorial Hall in Bridgeport 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- Thursday March 19, 2020 @ the Benton Community Center 5:30pm – 6:30pm

In lieu of these meetings, a new virtual community meeting has been scheduled for **Thursday (3/19)** from **5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

- You can attend via video through this link: <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/536879293> or by downloading the Zoom app on your mobile device and using meeting ID: 536 879 293
- You can also call in via phone to +16699006833, 536879293#

HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE

NEW: MAMMOTH HOSPITAL - CLINIC PLAN FOR PATIENT CARE FOR COVID-19

Surgery Schedule

All elective in-patient and out-patient surgeries are suspended as of 5:00 p.m. on 03/17/2020. This decision has been made in an effort to not only minimize both patient and staff exposure to COVID-19, but also to conserve supply chain dependent items such as masks, gowns, gloves, medications, anesthesia gases, and most importantly, staff. This decision will be re-evaluated daily with regard to local and national progression of the disease process.

Emergent cases will continue to be performed as usual. Other cases will be performed at the discretion of each respective surgeon, and surgical volume will be monitored for appropriate indication and utilization of resources by the Hospital Incident Management Team.

Cancellation of Well Visits

As a rule, well visits to Family Med, Pediatrics, Orthopedics, General Surgery, and Women's Health should be cancelled as an in-clinic visit until further notice. If possible, this type of visit may be conducted via "synchronized video conferencing." This means providers can use FaceTime, phone call, Skype, or Cerner tele-visits as that technology becomes available.

Continuation of Well Patient (meaning no viral illness concerns) In-Person Clinic Visits

The following types of visits will continue at this time and include but are not limited to newborn follow up exam, post-partum follow up exam, 3rd trimester prenatal care, any visit that includes vaccination for pediatrics, adult vaccination for PNA-Flu-Shingles, and immediate post-op visits. It is not possible to characterize all the visit types which may arise, so scheduling should be left to the discretion of the provider.

Continuation of Sick (as in something other than viral illness concerns) Patient In-Person Clinic Visits

These patients would need to be seen due to conditions that would necessitate a formal visit. Examples would include UTI symptoms, excessive menstrual bleeding, ankle pain (I think I broke my ankle), acute ear pain, abdominal pain, Nausea/vomiting, new onset fatigue/lightheadedness, etc. Again, this is not an exhaustive list, and scheduling should be left to the discretion of the provider.

Continuation of Behavioral Health

As many of these visits as possible should be scheduled as teleconferencing visits. So long as there are no concerns for acute viral illness, acute behavioral health issues can be seen in clinic if felt to be necessary by the caring provider. Other visits can also be seen in person, again at the discretion of the provider.

Change to Dental Clinic Visits

As of the end of business on 03/17/2020, the dental clinic will only be open to see patients with dental emergencies, such as a cracked tooth, acute tooth pain, dental abscess, etc. As is true for other clinics, the need for the patient to be seen will be left to the discretion of the provider.

Specialty Clinic Visits

Unlike other clinics, most, if not all of these visits are not well visits, as these patients have been referred by other providers for evaluation. Inclusive in this category are Dermatology visits. Certainly, if the patient can wait, the visit should either be cancelled, or carried out via "synchronized video conferencing." Otherwise, so long as the patient has no viral illness concerns, he/she can be seen in clinic. As is true for the other clinics, the need for the patient to be seen will be left to the discretion of the provider.

Rehab Visits

Until further notice, PT and OT staff should go to a limited staff model, and only attend to acute post-op visits and wound care. Where possible, all other visits may be conducted via "synchronized video teleconferencing."

Documentation

For provider documentation, if any form of "synchronous live videoconferencing" (including phone calls) is utilized, submit the E&M code that you would normally use based on the level of service provided. Please

consider that you did not necessarily perform any sort of a physical exam. If video teleconferencing is used, please document the following:

- Patient consent to live video call was received
- Method of communication – video should be called “Synchronous Live Videoconferencing”
- Name of all attendees
- Any technical issues that occurred or document there were no technical disruptions
- The duration of the call
- The nursing informatics team is available to help create a template to satisfy documentation requirements.

Billing

In-person visits are billed as usual. For now, “Synchronous Live Videoconferencing” visits should be billed at the same E&M level used if the patient were in fact in clinic. We are anticipating Medicare and other payers will reimburse at the same rate, given the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staffing Considerations

We recognize that all staff members may not be utilized in their normal positions during the next several weeks to months. Consideration for clinic staffing will be left to each individual manager. Please keep in mind that there may be a need for you to work in another area of the hospital. Should there be availability, you would be paid at your normal rate of pay.

Thank you to all for your understanding, dedication, and hard work in putting “Patients First!” in this most unusual time.

TOURISM AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY

NEW: FEDERAL ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS AVAILABLE TO MONO COUNTY BUSINESSES

The SBA will provide disaster assistance loans for small businesses impacted by COVID-19. SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans offering up to \$2 million in assistance for a small business. These loans can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.

- Apply online now at: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov>
- More resources for small businesses: <https://www.sba.gov/coronavirus>

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES RESTRICTS PUBLIC ACCESS TO TOWN OFFICES

The Town is still working and will conduct business via phone, email, and other electronic means where possible. Please contact the appropriate number below. You will be instructed on how to exchange paperwork and payments. Thank you for your understanding as we take all precautions to protect our employees and members of our community.

- Building / Planning: (760) 965-3630

- Finance: (760) 965-3660
- Public Works: (760) 965-3650
- Parks & Recreation: (760) 965-3690

MESSAGE FROM MAMMOTH LAKES TOURISM (MLT)

NEW: UNITED LAX FLIGHT WILL MOST LIKELY SHUT DOWN THIS WEEKEND

- MLT's physical office is closed but all staff is working and available, remotely.
- MLT is discouraging visitation to Mammoth Lakes at this time to stop the introduction of outside illness to our community – the health and well-being of our residents and businesses community are paramount right now.
- Enterprise rental car is closing its Mammoth location for now - cars are available in Bishop but there is no transportation to get there (enterprise is not allowed to pick people up)
- JSX flights are done for the year, effective March 16.
- United will be ending DEN and SFO Friday. LAX will continue at this point but likely to shut down at the end of March through at least mid-June. MLT is working to get it shut down sooner.
- The immediate focus of the MLT team is working on the content and creative needed for immediate recovery once people are ready to travel again.
- MLT will look to bolster marketing recovery efforts with reserve funds- we have the best chance to recover because we see the majority of visitation from drive markets, perceived safety of nature, gas prices being down, pent up demand etc. are all huge positives for us to recover quickly and we need to be prepared to get our messaging out ASAP.
- We are not a conference and business market, leisure will bounce back faster. Also while we do a decent international business- it's not as large a factor as it is for our friend in the big cities around the country.
- MLT will be working with the local food bank to provide supplies available to our employees affected by the recent and immediate halt of tourism business.

PUBLIC SAFETY MESSAGE

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person:

- Between people who are in **close contact with one another** (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced **when an infected person coughs or sneezes**. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Wash your hands often with **soap and water for at least 20 seconds** especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

- Avoid touching your **eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- **Stay home if you are sick**, except to get medical care.

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

MAMMOTH LAKES POLICE DEPARTMENT RESTRICTS PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE FRONT LOBBY

The MLPD Administration Office is currently closed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in public areas. The police department is still working, and the administration will conduct business via phone, email, and other electronic means where possible. Officers are continuing patrol services as normal with special instruction to limit exposure to the virus. For emergencies, please dial 911. For non-emergency assistance, dial 760-932-7549, press 7. The public can also email any questions, comments or concerns to: pd@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov.

Public fingerprinting and Live Scan services are also suspended at the Mammoth Lakes Police Department until further notice.

MAMMOTH LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NEW: MAMMOTH LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT COMMUNITY SUPPORT

MLFD's administrative staff continues to work Monday through Friday during business hours, and are limiting all interactions with the public to email and/or phone. To reach staff by phone, please call (760) 934-2300, Monday through Friday. If you have an emergency at any time, please call 911.

Both Fire Station 1 and Fire Station 2 are locked and are to be accessed only by on-duty Mono County Paramedics and MLFD personnel conducting official district business. MLFD's on-duty engine crew will continue to respond to calls, and volunteers will also respond if Mono County Dispatch issues a group page.

MLFD is well stocked with PPE (personal protective equipment) and well equipped to protect both our staff and the general public when responding to incidents.

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES & LIBRARIES

NEW: CERRO COSO ON-GROUND CLASSES WILL BE CLOSED FROM MONDAY, MARCH 16 TO FRIDAY, MARCH 20 TO ALLOW FACULTY TIME TO TRANSITION TO ALTERNATIVE LEARNING FORMATS. ALL OTHER SERVICES AND SUPPORTS WILL REMAIN OPEN.

Additional information: <https://www.cerrocoso.edu/campus-safety/coronavirus-covid-19-updates>

- [ESUSD schools will be closed March 17th through March 30th](#)

- [Mammoth Unified Schools are closed from March 16-27th](#)
- [Mono County Libraries closed through March 31st](#)
- [Bishop Unified Schools closed March 16 - 20](#)

PARKS AND RECREATION

NEW: ALL PROGRAMMING ON HOLD. FACILITIES CLOSED. PLAYGROUNDS CLOSED. WHITMORE RECREATION AREA OPEN!

The Parks and Recreation Department is working closely with Mono County Health Department and continues to respond to federal, state and local guidelines as they are implemented and will keep you up to date with any changes. Whitmore Recreation Area, including Ball Fields 1 & 2 and the Synthetic Turf and Track, is currently OPEN as an outdoor-only, open-space facility for self-directed use. Visitors are reminded to follow CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including maintaining social distancing of 6 feet or more. Please visit the parks and recreation home page for the latest update: <https://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/259/Parks-and-Recreation-Department>.

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

A NOTICE TO ALL INYO NATIONAL FOREST VISITORS

Continuing our service to you while doing our part to address the COVID-19 Pandemic is very important. We are asking all visitors to self-assess using the following USDA provided questions:

- Have you, someone living in your household, someone with you, someone you have been in close or frequent contact with, or someone you are caring for been diagnosed with COVID-19 (Coronavirus) or had any contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- In the last 14 days, have you, someone living in your household, or someone with you have been in close or frequent contact with, or someone you are caring for returned from, or made a travel connection through a CDC Level 2 or Level 3 country or State Department Level 3 or Level 4 country, for example, China, Korea, Japan, the European Union, Iran?
- Do you currently have, or have you had within the last 24 hours, any cold or flu symptoms, including a fever greater than 100.4, shortness of breath, body aches and coughing?

If the answer to all of these questions is “NO,” please call the phone number posted at each visitor center or office for assistance in obtaining entrance to the facility. This may include setting up an appointment to enhance social distancing and minimize the number of visitors in our office at one time.

- Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center: (760) 924-5500
- White Mountain Ranger Station and Bishop Supervisor’s Office: (760) 873-2400
- Eastern Sierra Visitor Center, Lone Pine: (760) 876-6200

If any of the answers to the questions is 'YES,' we ask that you still please call the number above so we may see how we may assist your need through other means besides face-to-face.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we all work together to minimize the impacts and spread of COVID-19.

UNIFIED COMMAND

Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes have entered into Unified Command in order to more effectively manage this incident. The ICS:

- Enables a coordinated response among various jurisdictions and agencies.
- Establishes common processes for planning and managing resources.
- Allows for the integration of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure.
- Centralizes all public information functions and provides the mechanism to organize, integrate, and coordinate information to ensure timely, accurate, accessible, and consistent messaging across multiple jurisdictions.
- Speed up response to support and accelerate recovery.

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