



MONO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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REVISED ORDER OF THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER

Cooperation with COVID-19 Public Health Investigations (Contact Tracing)

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, California's Governor declared a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and on March 17, 2020, Mono County declared a state of local emergency, both declarations remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, state and local governments have enacted a variety of essential measures to protect the public by reducing the virus' spread; and

WHEREAS, among those essential measures is contact tracing, whereby teams led by county public health nurses ("Public Health Investigators") interview individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who are presumed to be COVID-19 positive based on symptoms ("COVID-Positive Persons") regarding their recent contacts; and

WHEREAS, at times this process requires the cooperation of employers, who have access to information regarding the workplace contacts of COVID-Positive Persons in their employ; and

WHEREAS, identification by Public Health Investigators of individuals who have been exposed to infected persons can stop further transmission of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of individuals interviewed as part of the County's contact tracing program are willing to provide the names of those with whom they have had contact in order to protect others from infection; and

WHEREAS, in rare cases, individuals refuse to cooperate with the County in identifying individuals with whom they have had recent contact, thereby hindering the County's effort to limit the disease's spread and protect the public; and

WHEREAS, to address those situations where information is not provided, and to allay concerns which may exist regarding the use of information obtained through contact tracing, the Local Health Officer has deemed it necessary to enact the following order

requiring COVID-Positive Persons and their employers to provide information regarding their recent contacts to Public Health Investigators and setting forth limitations as to the use of such information;

NOW, THEREFORE, under the authority of California Health and Safety Code sections 101040, 101085, 120175 and 120175.5 and Title 17 California Code of Regulations, Section 2501, in addition to existing guidance, the Mono County Health Officer **HEREBY ORDERS** as follows:

1. Any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who is presumed positive by Mono County Public Health based on the presence of symptoms (COVID-Positive Persons) and who was physically present within Mono County at any time during or immediately preceding infection shall, upon the request of a Public Health Investigator, provide the names and contact information (if known) of all individuals with whom he or she has been in contact beginning 2-3 days before he or she knew about the infection.
2. Employers of COVID-Positive Persons shall, upon request of a Public Health Investigator, provide the names of all other employees employed at the same physical location as the COVID-Positive Person, or who were in physical contact with the COVID-Positive Person regardless of where they normally report to work; a copy of work schedules for employees for the period of potential infection; contact information for any employee determined by the Investigator to have likely been exposed; and such other information as the Investigator may request that is reasonably related to containing the spread of the virus.
3. All information provided pursuant to this Order shall be maintained in confidence by the Public Health Investigator to the maximum extent possible without undermining the purposes for which the information is obtained. Specifically, the information shall **ONLY** be used for public health purposes, including but not limited to: contacting, interviewing, educating and (where necessary) isolating or quarantining those individuals identified as having been in contact with the COVID-Positive Person during the period where the disease was infectious.

General Provisions

1. This Order is issued based on evidence of transmission of COVID-19, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approach to slow transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, as well as best practices as currently known and available to protect the public from the risk of spread of or exposure to COVID-19.

2. This Order is intended to reduce the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19, by incorporating and referencing Guidelines approved by the State of California, thereby slowing the spread of COVID-19.

3. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the: March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom; the March 15, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency based on an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of novel COVID-19 in Mono County; the March 17, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mono proclaiming the existence of a Local Emergency in the County of Mono regarding COVID-19 and ratifying and extending the Declaration of Local Health Emergency due to COVID-19; Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-33-20 of March 19, 2020 ordering all persons to stay at home, except as otherwise authorized, to protect the health and well-being of all Californians and to establish consistency across the state in order to slow the spread of COVID-19; the State of California’s Resilience Roadmap, and all Guidance related thereto; CDPH’s “COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Restaurants, Bars, and Wineries”; Mono County’s “Interim Guidelines for Businesses During the COVID-19 Pandemic”; “Mono County Health Officer Order Requiring the Wearing of Face Coverings” issued April 30, 2020; the Mono County Business Portal at <https://webapps.mono.ca.gov/covid19-business-reopening/>; and the June 11, 2020 Mono County Health Officer Order Requiring Compliance with Business Guidelines.”

4. This Order is made in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, including but not limited to: Health and Safety Code sections 101030, et seq.; Health and Safety Code sections 120100, et seq.; and Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations section 2501.

5. This Order is made because of the propensity of the virus to spread person-to-person and also because the virus is causing physical property loss or damage due to its proclivity to attach to surfaces for prolonged periods of time.

6. This Order shall supersede and replace, in its entirety, the July 9, 2020, Local Health Officer Order “Cooperation with COVID-19 Public Health Investigations” which shall be of no further force or effect.

7. Violation of this Order is a misdemeanor, punishable by fine of up to \$1000, imprisonment for up to 90 days, or both, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 120295 and Government Code section 8665.

8. Copies of this Order shall be promptly posted on the County of Mono’s Public Health Department’s website (monohealth.com). This Order shall additionally be provided to any member of the public upon request.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Thomas Boo, MD

Thomas Boo, MD
Local Health Officer

Date July 13, 2020

For Mono County
and the Town of Mammoth Lakes