



INYO COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INYO COUNTY COVID-19 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS UPDATE

December 21, 2020 - 5:00 P.M.

<https://www.inyocounty.us/covid-19>

- **Holiday Gatherings:** The safest way to celebrate winter holidays is at home with the people who live with you. Travel and gatherings with family and friends who do not live with you can increase your chances of getting or spreading COVID-19 or the flu. It is essential that throughout this Holiday season we do not let our guard down and continue to preventative practices. For more information on how to celebrate safely, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/winter.html>
- **Lone Pine Verily Testing Change:** Due to the Christmas and New Year Holidays, Lone Pine Verily testing will be rescheduled from Friday to Tuesday, December 22nd and Tuesday December 29th, times and location will remain the same (Lone Pine Senior Center, 138 Jackson St). Normal Friday testing will resume on January 8th. To schedule an appointment visit: <https://www.projectbaseline.com/study/covid-19/>
- **Inyo County Moves to Purple Tier:** Effective Tuesday, December 15th, Inyo County moved to the Purple Tier, indicating that our County risk level is widespread. It is important to note, that although Inyo County is already under a regional mandated Stay at Home Order in response to ICU bed capacities, if our positivity rates continue to spike and we maintain Purple Tier status many non-essential indoor businesses will remain closed once the Stay at Home Order is lifted.
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Update:** Inyo and Mono Counties submitted a request and were jointly approved for 975 doses in the first round of vaccine allocation, which arrived on December 17th. The two counties are dividing the first round of allocation proportionally to the number of Phase 1a priority populations in each county. 360 doses will go to Mono County, 615 will go to Inyo County.

Initially, because vaccine supplies will be very limited, the vaccine will not be available to everyone and broad availability of vaccine is not expected to be until at least the spring. Information on actual timelines and the amount of vaccine available will continue to be released by federal, state, and local public health agencies as it becomes available. For the first phase of vaccine distribution (Phase 1A), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has created a [Phased Vaccination](#) schedule that prioritizes those who are at most risk of getting COVID-19 within direct health care and long term care settings. Inyo County will be using the CDPH guidelines to distribute vaccinations.

The first round of vaccination will go to Phase 1A populations, including:

- People exposed to COVID-19 through their work in health care or long term care settings. This includes clinicians like doctors and nurses, but also non-clinical roles such as environmental services, patient transportation, or interpretation. Phase 1a staff at

Northern Inyo Healthcare District and Southern Inyo Healthcare District will be offered vaccine.

- Residents of skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities, or other long-term care facilities for elderly or medically vulnerable individuals. The vaccine for these facilities, including Bishop Care Center, Southern Inyo Healthcare District’s skilled nursing facility, and Sterling Heights, will likely not come out of Inyo County’s first round allocation of 615 doses. Instead, these residential care facilities should be receiving vaccine through a state contract with CVS Pharmacy around the same time as NIHD and SIHD hospitals are vaccinating their Phase 1a staff.

After the hospitals receive their doses and vaccinate all of their staff eligible under Phase 1a, Inyo County will prioritize the following populations:

- Paramedics, EMTs, and others providing emergency medical services in Inyo County.
- Workers who provide home health care and in-home supportive services, including field staff for Pioneer Home Health and the Inyo County IHSS program.
- Public health field staff, including those providing vaccine and other clinical services.
- Primary care providers, including NIHD RHC and SIHD RHC, and jail health. Toiyabe Indian Health Project will also be prioritized and will receive vaccine through Indian Health Service channels.
- Other health care workers, including specialty clinics, laboratory workers, dental and other oral health clinics, and Pharmacy staff.
- Other essential workers, outside of health care. CDPH has not yet issued guidance on prioritizing these workers, but we do expect to receive this guidance in the near future.

CRITICAL REMINDER - Failure to comply with Health Officer Orders places individuals and our community at increased risk of infection. Violation of Health Officer Orders may also result in a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, fine, or both (Health and Safety Code §120295).

Statewide/ Federal Information, Action, & Recommendations

	Global	U.S.	California
Confirmed Cases	77,296,617	17,994,936	1,884,033
Deaths	1,700,932	319,086	22,738

Global: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data> (12/21/20 – 4:00 pm)

US: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data> (12/21/20 – 4:00 pm)

CA: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data> (12/21/20 – 4:00 pm)

- **Youth Sports Guidance:** On December 14th the California Department of Public Health updated guidance for outdoor and indoor youth and recreational adult sports. This guidance provides direction on outdoor and indoor youth and recreational adult sports activities to support a safe environment for these sports. The guidance applies to all organized youth sports — including school- and community-sponsored programs, and privately-organized clubs and leagues — and adult recreational sports. The document provides guidance regarding: Face Coverings, Physical Distancing, Hygiene and Equipment Sanitation, Cohorting, Observers, Indoor Venues, Inter-Team Competitions, Returning to Sports After Infection, and Permitted Youth and Recreational Adult Sports by County Tier. To view the guidance in

its entirety please visit: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/outdoor-indoor-recreational-sports.aspx>

- **Executive Order on Actions in Response to COVID-19:** On December 14th, Governor Gavin Newsom today issued an executive order addressing a variety of issues in response to the pandemic, including extending the availability of housing for migrant agricultural workers, providing a 90-day extension on tax returns and tax payments for small businesses and updating Cal/OSHA requirements related to quarantine guidelines. For more information visit: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/12/14/governor-newsom-signs-executive-order-on-actions-in-response-to-covid-19-12-14-20/>