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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INYO COUNTY IMPLEMENTS ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

UPDATE – 4:30 p.m. – After continued consideration, and in light of the serious threat to public health posed by the worldwide outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the County of Inyo is implementing additional emergency measures at County operated campgrounds and other County facilities. These measures include restricting walk-in services at some offices and full closures of other facilities. The County does not take these measures lightly and is basing these decisions on guidance from the Federal government, guidance from the California Department of Public Health, and guidance and executive orders from Governor Gavin Newsom in consultation with the Inyo County Public Health Officer.

The additional closures and restrictions below – in addition to the ones announced earlier today – are designed to protect our employees and the public at large while continuing to provide for the community's needs. As we all know by now, this situation is extremely fluid and changes rapidly. We expect to see additional restrictions in the days to come and will advise the public as they occur.

Effective immediately, the following offices will be closed to the public and/or suspending or limiting walk-in service (*please bear in mind that departments not listed here are still open to the public, at this time; however it is recommended that people conduct business with the County via phone and email to the extent possible, and **to not visit any County offices in person if they are experiencing illness***):

CLOSURES OR RESTRICTIONS TO WALK-IN SERVICE

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Health and Human Services provides a wide-range of services including Behavioral Health, Aging and Social Services, Public Health and Prevention Services. Most of HHS offices remain open at this time with limited access and alternative service provision options. For those offices that continue to remain open, there is limited lobby capacity at this time and we are asking that **residents who are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms remain home and access services by phone**. The following information can be used by residents in need of services.

Behavioral Health – 162 J Grove Street

Office remains open to walk-in traffic with capacity limited to four people at a time. Residents seeking services are encouraged to call (760) 873-6533 in advance to schedule and confirm all appointments. Appointments may occur via phone or telehealth. Residents who are experiencing a crisis and are in need of immediate assistance can call the Crisis Hotline number at (800) 841-5011.

Adult Social Services (ESAAA Information, Adult Protective Services, and IHSS) – 162 J Grove Street

Information about resources for older adults and reports of suspected abuse and neglect of residents over age 65 or dependent adults can be facilitated by calling (760) 873-6364. In-person reports of abuse or neglect can be accepted by appointment only. In person reports will be accepted by appointment only at this time. IHSS is closed to walk-in services. Residents, recipients, and caregivers can access IHSS services by calling (760) 873-6364. All IHSS timesheets and timesheet replacements will be facilitated by mail only at this time.

Child Protective Services – 162 J Grove Street

Reports of suspected abuse and neglect of children can be made by calling (760) 872-1727. In-person reports of abuse or neglect can be accepted by appointment only. CPS continues to provide services to children and families through telephone and in the office by appointment only.

Public Health – 207 A South Street

Public Health is closed to walk-in traffic. Services can be accessed by phone or through limited in person appointments. Nurse consultations for STD testing and treatment, contraception and condoms, and pregnancy and family planning; vaccinations; Ryan White AIDS and ADAP Services; and California Children’s Services can be received by calling (760) 873-7868 and scheduling an appointment.

Prevention Services (WIC, First 5, Mentoring, and Tobacco Programming) – 568 West Line Street

The Prevention office is closed to walk-in traffic. Applications for WIC can be made by telephone by calling (760) 872-1885. Appointments can be made for limited services including accessing breast pumps and formula and First 5’s Diaper Depot. Breastfeeding support will be provided by video-conferencing by appointment also. All other services are suspended at this time.

Wellness Centers – 586 Central Street, Bishop and 310 S. Jackson Street, Lone Pine

Wellness Centers are closed to walk-in traffic and have limited hours for scheduled appointments. Wellness Centers will be accepting appointments to provide supportive services to our homeless residents only. Only two residents can be seen during each appointment and appointments will be scheduled for ½ hour only at this time. Hours of operation:

Bishop

M-F 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
T-F 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Lone Pine

T and Th only 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please call (760) 873-8039 to schedule an appointment for either site.

Employment and Eligibility – 920 N. Main Street, Bishop

Office remains open with limited lobby capacity and no waiting area. Area residents are encouraged to call to apply and schedule appointments if needed. Applications for assistance are available in the lobby as well as in the outside receptacle adjacent to the door. The majority of assistance can and will be facilitated by telephone and applications can be dropped off in the locking outside receptacle. Any required in-person meetings will be facilitated through a scheduled appointment. Applications for emergency CalFresh and other emergency assistance will be facilitated through scheduled appointment. Call (760) 872-1394 to access these services or schedule an appointment or you can apply for CalFresh, CalWORKs, or Medi-Cal at www.C4yourself.com. EBT replacement cards can be requested by telephone and will be issued by mail. To request a card call (877) 328-9677 or visit www.ebt.ca.gov.

Ancillary Non-County Services

The monthly Social Security Administration kiosk access is temporarily suspended. Please contact the Social Security Administration office by calling (800) 772-1213 or visit www.ssa.gov.

Applications for unemployment services offered by the Employment Development Department (EDD) are available in the front lobby and in the outside receptacle. However, we are unable to accept completed applications and residents are encouraged to contact EDD for direction on applying for benefits by visiting www.edd.ca.gov.

Employment and Eligibility – 380 N. Mt. Whitney Drive, Lone Pine

Office is closed to walk-in traffic and area residents are encouraged to call to apply for services and schedule appointments if needed. Applications for assistance are available in the outside receptacle adjacent to the door. The majority of assistance can and will be facilitated by telephone and applications can be dropped off in the locking outside receptacle. Any required in-person meetings will be facilitated through a scheduled appointment. Applications for emergency CalFresh and other emergency assistance will be facilitated through scheduled appointment. Call (760) 872-1394 to access these services or schedule an appointment, or you can apply for CalFresh, CalWORKs, or Medi-Cal at www.C4yourself.com. EBT replacement cards can be requested by telephone and will be issued by mail. To request a card call (877) 328-9677 or visit www.ebt.ca.gov.

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PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Probation offices located at 912 N. Main Street (Juvenile) and 918 N. Main Street (Adult) are closed to walk-in traffic and some services are temporarily suspended. The following is list of services provided with identified modifications and restrictions. Where referenced below, the contact information by phone is (760) 872-4005 for Juvenile services and (760) 872-4111 for Adult services or email probation@inyocounty.us.

Client Check-Ins (Adult and Juvenile)

Services will be provided remotely via telephonic or email.

Payments

Payments will be accepted via on-line payments at www.inyocounty.us or via mail (check or money order). Assistance with on-line payments will be provided by phone.

Travel Permits

Travel permits can be requested via email or text and be sent to clients via email or text.

Community Work Service

Clients remain able to complete community work service on their own. Probation staff will not be supervising any community work service at this time. Clients can call their probation officer for instruction.

On-Site Treatment Programs

All on-site treatment programs have been suspended. We are working on setting up video conference/telephone conference in order to provide virtual groups.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Environmental Health office located at 207 South St., Bishop and the Independence office located at 168 S. Edwards St. are closed to walk-in traffic. Services will still be provided. Please call (760) 878-0238.

As stated, the above-mentioned closures to walk-in services are in addition to several other closures and measures announced in an earlier version of this press release, available at <https://www.inyocounty.us/coronavirus-covid-19-response/press-releases-and-daily-updates>.

For ongoing updates and additional information, please visit the following websites:

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

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

<https://www.inyocounty.us/services/library/library-coronavirus-links>

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