



# INYO COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH BRIEF

James Richardson, M.D.  
Public Health Officer, Inyo County

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March 20, 2020

INYO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER ORDER  
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF NON-ESSENTIAL PUBLIC GATHERINGS  
REQUIRED SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES  
CLOSURE AND LIMITATIONS OF CERTAIN BUSINESSES

DATE ORDER ISSUED: MARCH 20, 2020

**Please read this Order carefully. Violation or failure to comply with this Order is a crime punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (Ca Health & Safety Code § 120295)**

**Summary:** Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. As of today, there are over 244,700 cases in the world and over 10,000 deaths. In California, there are 1,006 cases and 19 deaths. We can expect the number of cases to increase significantly should action not be taken to decrease the spread of the disease.

COVID-19 can be sneezed, coughed, or exhaled into the air by infected individuals. Transmission of the disease can be greatly reduced through community mitigation measures that decrease the likelihood of being exposed to an infected person. For this reason, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 on March 19, 2020, which requires all individuals in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors.

This Order reinforces Executive Order N-33-20 by explicitly prohibiting any non-essential professional, social, or community gathering, and specifically orders the temporary closure of certain non-essential businesses. This Order applies within the County of Inyo, beginning March 20, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. and continues until rescinded by the Health Officer subject to the terms and conditions more particularly set forth below:

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF INYO ORDERS:**

- All individuals in Inyo County shall stay at home or at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of critical infrastructure sectors, as referenced in the Executive Order. Other potential reasons that citizens may leave their residence include

shopping for household essentials and food, seeking medical care, and getting physical exercise outdoors. During these allowed activities, individuals are expected to practice a six-foot social distancing standard.

- In accordance with this mandate, the State of California developed an initial list of “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers” to help state, local, tribal, and industry partners as they work to protect communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. Business owners and industry partners will use their own judgement, informed by this list, to ensure continued operations of critical infrastructure services and functions.
- All non-essential professional, social, and community gatherings shall be cancelled, regardless of their sponsor. A “gathering” is any event or convening that brings together people in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria, or any other indoor or outdoor space.
- Workers should be encouraged to work remotely when possible. When continuous remote work is not possible, businesses should enlist strategies to reduce the likelihood of spreading the disease. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, separating staff by off-setting shift hours or days and/or social distancing. These steps can preserve the workforce and allow operations to continue.
- All organizations should implement their business continuity and pandemic plans, or put plans in place if they do not exist.

For clarification, below is a partial list of the businesses that shall close in accordance with this order:

- Gyms, health clubs, and other fitness facilities shall be closed.
- Pubs, bars, cocktail lounges, wineries, breweries, distilleries, tap rooms, and nightclubs shall be closed, except for venues that include meals provided by a full kitchen. Venues with a full kitchen shall adhere to restaurant guidance and provide only delivery or pickup options.
- Wineries, breweries, distilleries, and tap rooms that do not serve food or are not licensed to sell bottled or packaged alcohol for consumption off the licensed premises shall be closed.
- Movie theaters, live performance theaters, bowling alleys, gambling venues, hot springs, museums, arcades, and other attractions shall be closed.
- Restaurants shall be closed for seated dining, and should be open only to drive-through or other pick-up/delivery options.

As the Health Officer for the County of Inyo, I encourage voluntary compliance with this Health Officer's Order, but both civil and criminal enforcement actions are permitted under the Health and Safety Code.

Any persons who wish to discuss this please contact the Department of Health and Human Services at (760) 873-3305.

  
James Richardson, MD  
Health Officer

March 20, 2020  
Date