



# INYO COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

e-mail: [cquilter@inyocounty.us](mailto:cquilter@inyocounty.us)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Carma Roper, Public Information Officer [croper@inyocounty.us](mailto:croper@inyocounty.us)

## INYO COUNTY COVID-19 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS UPDATE

*December 14, 2020 - 5:00 P.M.*

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

- REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM INYO COUNTY RESIDENTS:** During the weekend of December 12<sup>th</sup>, Inyo County experienced a spike of 44 new COVID-19 confirmed cases. To date, this is the largest and most alarming spike in cases that Inyo County has experienced. The rapid and sharp increase in COVID-19 patients, coupled with seasonal illnesses and other emergent conditions, has resulted in Inyo County hospitals and emergency services being inundated and stretched to their capacity. We are experiencing ER bed shortages, increased wait times, reduction of inpatient beds as patients are admitted, and difficulty transporting critical patients to specialty hospitals. Inyo County implores you to comply with the State mandated Stay at Home Order. It is only once our numbers stabilize and our hospitals are not at capacity that we will be permitted to reopen.

Additionally, it is absolutely critical that if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been identified as a close contact to someone who has COVID-19, that you follow the explicit isolation and quarantine guidance provided to you by Inyo County Public Health and if you are feeling ill stay home and contact your doctor.

**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 | 72,64,206 | 16,420,309 | 1,599,442  |
| Deaths          | 1,618,823 | 300,420    | 21,082     |

Global: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data> (12/14/20 – 3:30 pm)

US: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data> (12/14/20 – 3:30 pm)

CA: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data> (12/14/20 – 3:30 pm)

- **USFS Closures:** USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region has decided to close developed campgrounds on eight National Forests in California to provide consistent COVID-19 mitigation response in accordance with Gov. Gavin Newsom's Stay-at-Home Order of December 3, 2020. This includes the Inyo National Forest. These Regional Orders will be in effect from December 8, 2020, through January 6, 2021. For more information visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/home>
- **#RecreateResponsibly:** During this public health crisis, spending time in outdoor spaces has become more important than ever. Yet these unusual circumstances mean that all of us, from seasoned outdoor enthusiasts to families heading out to their local park for the first time, could use a little guidance about how to stay safe. The Recreate Responsibly guidelines offer a starting point for getting outside to keep yourself healthy and to maintain access to our parks, trails, and beaches. For more information visit: <https://www.recreateresponsibly.org/home>
- **State Launches CA Notify, COVID-19 Exposure Notification Tool:** On December 10<sup>th</sup> the California Department of Health (CDPH) and the California Department of Technology (CDT) launched the digital tool designed to notify Californians of their possible exposure to COVID-19. The free, mobile technology is now available to all Californians and can be accessed on mobile devices. When individuals voluntarily activate CA Notify, the tool uses Bluetooth technology to exchange random codes between phones without revealing the user's identity or location. When someone is tested for COVID-19, they will receive a text message from (855) 976-8462. This text will remind CA Notify users who receive a positive test result from a provider or laboratory to enter their verification code into their phone using CA Notify. Any other CA Notify users who were within six feet of the COVID-19 positive individual for 15 minutes or more when that person was most likely to be infectious will get an anonymous notification of possible exposure. For more information visit: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR20-330.aspx>
- **AB685 COVID-19 Workplace Outbreak Reporting Requirements:** AB 685 (Chapter 84, Statutes of 2020) is a new California law that requires:
  - Employers to notify employees who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and to report workplace outbreaks to the local health department.
  - The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to publicly report information on workplace outbreaks by industry.
  - Applies to all public and private employers in California, except health facilities.For more information visit: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/ab685.aspx>