



## INYO COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH BRIEF

James Richardson, M.D.  
Public Health Officer, Inyo County  
760-873-7868  
760-920-0433

### DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY REGARDING THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

**WHEREAS**, Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes a local health officer to declare a local health emergency in the health officer's jurisdiction, or any part thereof, when the health officer determines that there is an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease; and

**WHEREAS**, a local health emergency declared by a local health officer pursuant to Section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code shall not remain in effect after seven days from the date of this proclamation unless it has been ratified by the governing authority of the local jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Health Officer of the County of Inyo makes the following findings:

A novel coronavirus (named "COVID -19" by the World Health Organization) was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has stated that COVID-19 is a serious public health threat, based on current information. Cases of COVID -19 have been diagnosed in the United States, primarily in individuals who have traveled to other countries, but there have been cases identified of "community spread" of COVID-19 involving individuals who have not traveled overseas and who have no known connections to overseas travel. In part, the virus is considered a very serious health threat because much is unknown. The exact modes of transmission, the factors facilitating human-to-human transmission, the extent of asymptomatic viral shedding, the groups most at risk of serious illness, the attack rate, and the case fatality rate all remain active areas of investigation.

The best information to date suggests that the virus is spread between people primarily via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and infected individuals have experienced a range of outcomes, from mild sickness to severe illness and death. The CDC believes at this time that symptoms appear two to fourteen days after exposure. Currently, there is no vaccine or specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19.

The number of reported cases of COVID-19 has escalated dramatically over a short period of time. As of March 15, 2020, the World Health Organization has reported 167,832 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 80,849 cases in China and the remaining 86,983 cases in 156 other countries. There have been 6,485 deaths in China due to COVID-19, and another 3,286 deaths in other countries.

According to the CDC, as of March 15, 2020, there have been 1,629 cases of COVID-19 detected, tested and confirmed in the United States (not including 49 individuals who returned to the United States from overseas), and 41 deaths.

The World Health Organization has declared the pandemic to be a global health emergency. The federal government and the State of California have also declared states of emergency.

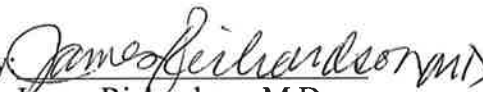
Actions are being taken to protect public health and limit the spread of COVID-19 in the United States. The CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to China, Iran, most European countries, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and South Korea. State and local officials are implementing and encouraging social distancing measures, including prohibitions of non-essential large gatherings.

While there are no laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County of Inyo or Mono as of March 16, 2020, the Health Officer anticipates cases of COVID-19 in the Eastern Sierra in the immediate future.

**WHEREAS**, the Health Officer of the County of Inyo does hereby find that there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from COVID-19 in Inyo County; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Health Officer of the County of Inyo hereby declares that a local health emergency now exists in Inyo County.

Date: 3-16-20

Issued by:   
James Richardson, M.D.  
Inyo County Health Officer