

Interim Director of Health Services
Stacy Sphar, RN, BSN, PHN

Acting Director of Public Health
Nursing/Branch Director of Public Health
Tanya Schulz, R.N., P.H.N.

Modoc County Health Services Public Health Department

Public Health Officer
Edward P. Richert, M.D.

COUNTY OF MODOC STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY BY THE MODOC COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code section 101080 authorizes a local health officer to declare a local health emergency in the health officer's jurisdiction, or any part thereof, whenever the health officer determines that there is an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, chemical agent, noncommunicable biologic agent, toxin, or radioactive agent; and

WHEREAS, the local health emergency shall not remain in effect after seven days from the date of this proclamation unless it has been ratified by the Modoc County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Modoc County Public Health Officer finds:

1. A novel coronavirus (named "2019-nCoV") was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the virus to be a very serious public health threat, based on current information. In part, the virus is considered a serious public 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 2019-nCoV.
2. The number of reported cases of 2019-nCoV and number of reported deaths from 2019-nCoV has escalated dramatically over a short period of time. To date, there are more than one hundred twenty-thousand (120,000) confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV and over four thousand (4,000) deaths from 2019-nCoV worldwide. Cases of 2019-nCoV, though concentrated in China, have been reported in more than one hundred and fourteen (114) countries, and include individuals who never visited China. Transmission from an asymptomatic individual has been documented. Community transmission of 2019-nCoV has been documented in patients in the United States with no known history of travel to a location with confirmed 2019-nCoV cases, and no known contact with a person with a confirmed 2019-nCoV case. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the outbreak to be a global health pandemic. The United States Health and Human Services Agency has declared a public health emergency for the United States. California Governor Gavin Newsom has declared a state of emergency for California. More than thirty-eight (38) states have reported cases of 2019-nCoV throughout the United States. Thirteen (13) states in the United States have declared states of emergencies.

Modoc County Health Services Public Health Department

3. To date, the number of reported cases of 2019-nCOV in the United States is over one thousand and eighty (1080). and thirty-one (31) reported deaths. The number of reported cases of 2019-nCOV in California, to date, is one hundred and fifty-seven (157), including cases in neighboring Shasta County and Humboldt County. As of March 11, 2020, there have been three (3) confirmed deaths in California due to 2019-nCOV. Deaths have also been reported in Washington State, Florida, New Jersey and South Dakota. The State of Washington reports two hundred and seventy-three (273) confirmed cases of 2019-nCOV and New York State reports one hundred and seventy-six (176) cases to date. The State of Oregon has reported confirmed cases of 2019-nCOV in numerous counties including neighboring Jackson County and Klamath County. Nevada has confirmed case as well.
4. Actions are being taken to protect public health and limit the spread of 2019-nCOV in the United States. The California Governor and California Department of Public Health have issued recommendations that gatherings of two hundred and fifty (250) people or more should be postponed or cancelled; smaller gatherings that do not allow for social distancing of six (6) feet per person should be postponed or cancelled; gathering of people who are at higher risk for severe illness from 2019-nCOV should be limited to no more than 10 people, this includes gatherings at retirement facilities, assisted living facilities, developmental homes, and support homes for people with health conditions. The President of the United States has suspended travel to 26 European countries. CDC has issued a Level 3 Travel Health Notice recommending that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to China, Iran, 26 European countries, South Korea, and entry of foreign nationals to the United States from these destinations has been suspended. The CDC has issued a Global Outbreak Notice at the Level 2 Travel Health Notice recommending that travelers that are older adults or those with chronic medical conditions consider postponing global travel. The U.S. government has evacuated more than two-hundred U.S. citizens from Whuhan, China to the United States and placed them in quarantine. Flights from Europe, Iran, and China to the United States have been suspended and all travelers returning to the United States from travel restricted countries are being asked to self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days to reduce the risk of community spread of 2019-nCOV.

WHEREAS, the Modoc County Public Health Officer does hereby find that there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health in Modoc County from the introduction of 2019-nCOV in Modoc County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Modoc County Public Health Officer hereby does declare that a local health emergency now exists in the County of Modoc.

Dated: March 13, 2020
Time: 1055



Edward P. Richert, MD, Public Health Officer
County of Modoc