



COUNTY OF DEL NORTE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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GUIDANCE FROM THE DEL NORTE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

DATE OF GUIDANCE: AUGUST 26, 2021

INTENT OF THIS GUIDANCE

The intent of this guidance is to help community members and employers make decisions that can positively impact COVID transmission in Del Norte County during the current healthcare crisis. This guidance should be considered in addition to the face covering order also issued today.

BACKGROUND

Hospitalizations and deaths associated with COVID-19 in Del Norte County have risen to a record high, resulting in an extreme impact on our rural healthcare infrastructure and requiring resource requests from the state. This rise in cases is likely due to the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Please refer to the health officer's mandate also issued today for further background.

The health officer and Del Norte Public Health are providing this temporary guidance in response to requests from members of the community with the intent of slowing community transmission of the virus and allowing our local healthcare facilities and emergency medical services to better manage this crisis.

GUIDANCE

It is ***strongly recommended*** that individuals, businesses, venue operators, hosts, and others responsible for the operation of indoor public settings and outdoor crowded settings and events consider voluntarily canceling their plans and operations during the course of this COVID surge or providing alternative venues for their patrons to attend virtually.

It is ***strongly recommended*** that bars and indoor dining facilities reduce the number of patrons that they allow into their facilities to 50% capacity.

It is ***strongly recommended*** that employers allow their employees to work virtually where possible.

The community is reminded that this is a guidance and not a mandate. The public has the power to change the course of this COVID surge that Del Norte is experiencing and the healthcare community is asking the general public to please take this crisis seriously.

Additionally, other standard precautions are **strongly recommended**:

- **For Vulnerable Populations.** In general, the older a person is, the more health conditions a person has, and the more severe the conditions, the more important it is to take preventive measures for COVID-19 such as getting vaccinated, social distancing and wearing a mask when around people who don't live in the same household, and practicing hand hygiene. For more information, [see guidance here](#).

- **COVID-19 Vaccination for County Residents.** All Del Norte County residents should receive COVID-19 vaccination in accordance with the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and CDC guidance unless a medical contraindication applies. Minors, who are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccination in accordance with the applicable CDC guidelines, should be vaccinated in the presence of their parent or legal guardian.

- **Seasonal Flu Vaccination for County Residents.** All County residents who are six months of age or older should obtain the seasonal flu vaccination unless a medical or religious exemption applies.

- **COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing for Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics and Home Healthcare Providers.** To help prevent transmission of COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that all Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, and Home Healthcare Providers (including In Home Supportive Services Program workers). Furthermore, it is strongly recommended that all unvaccinated Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, and Home Healthcare Providers (including In Home Supportive Services Program workers) undergo at least twice weekly testing for COVID-19 until such time they are fully vaccinated.

Signed,

Date: 8/26/2021



Aaron Stutz MD FAAEM
Del Norte County Health Officer