

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Section 101080 empowers the County Health Officer to declare a Local Health Emergency for a period of seven days unless it has been ratified by the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, upon ratification by the Board of Supervisors, under the Health and Safety Code, the Local Health Emergency may be extended 30 days until the Local Health Emergency is terminated, however this requirement has been waived by proclamation of the Governor of California; and

WHEREAS, the United States has confirmed cases of individuals who have a severe acute respiratory illness (COVID-19) caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (SARS CoV2) which causes infectious disease and was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. As of March 17, 2020, the World Health Organization has reported approximately 184,976 confirmed cases worldwide, including 7,529 deaths, across 159 countries, areas or territories worldwide. Within the United States, there currently exists 4,226 confirmed cases including 75 deaths in 53 states, districts and territories. The number of confirmed cases continues to escalate dramatically over a short period of time; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a Public Health Emergency for the United States to aid the nation's health care community in responding to COVID-19; on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency for California in response to the global COVID-19 outbreak; on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; on March 13, 2020 President Donald Trump declared COVID-19 a National Emergency; and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that the virus presents a serious public health threat; and

WHEREAS, the potential of COVID-19 cases in Del Norte County is an imminent threat; and

WHEREAS, conditions of peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen; and although the declaration does not reflect any dramatic change in the immediate health of our community, this step is being taken to help ensure adequate capacity to address the imminent threat of a community transmission phase of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, once community transmission begins within Del Norte County, it will undoubtedly be accompanied by increased demands on Del Norte Health and Human Services Public Health Department and Office of Emergency Services, as well as our community partners who are part of the response such as hospitals, clinics, emergency medical services (EMS), law enforcement, fire departments and other agencies; and

WHEREAS, it is important to declare a Local Health Emergency because it provides additional access to resources and authorities needed to successfully mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and to protect the health and safety of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Warren Rehwaldt, Public Health Officer for the County of Del Norte, do declare a Local Health Emergency shall be deemed to exist throughout Del Norte County as prescribed by state law, ordinances, and resolutions of this county.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all citizens, organizations, and establishments follow orders and guidance related to COVID-19 as established by Federal Government and State of California public health authorities.

This declaration shall be ratified by the Board of Supervisors within seven (7) days.

Dated: March 17, 2020



Warren Rehwaldt, Public Health Officer