

# Amador County Public Health Department

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10877 Conductor Blvd., Ste. 400  
Sutter Creek, CA 95685  
Phone (209) 223-6407  
Fax (209) 223-1562  
publichealth@amadorgov.org



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

**WHEREAS**, 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 reasonably 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 declaration unless it has been ratified by the Amador County Board of Supervisors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Amador County Health Officer makes the following findings:

A novel coronavirus that causes the disease named "COVID-19" 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, but are poorly characterized at this time.

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. To date, there are over 127,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and over 4,000 deaths from COVID-19 worldwide. Cases of COVID-19, though concentrated in China, have been reported in over 100 countries, involving every continent except Antarctica. Community transmission is occurring in California. The World Health Organization has declared the outbreak to be a pandemic as of March 11, 2020.

Actions are being taken to protect public health and limit the spread of COVID-19 in the United States. Travel restrictions to and from multiple countries have been established.

**WHEREAS**, the entire State of California is considered to be at risk for community transmission of COVID-19, regardless of whether confirmed cases of the disease have been detected in a given

jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2020, the Governor of California issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the California Department of Public Health issued revised guidance regarding limitations upon attendance at public assemblies, conferences, or other mass events in order to limit the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Amador County Health Officer hereby finds that there is an imminent and proximate threat of the spread of COVID-19 in the County.

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

DATE: 3/12/2020

TIME: 1800

Rita H. Kerr, M.D.  
Issued By: Rita H. Kerr, M.D.  
Amador County Health Officer

Approved as to form and legality:

  
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Gregory Gillott  
Amador County Counsel