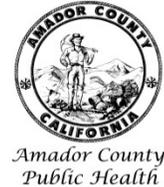




Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)



Latest Information on COVID-19 Amador County Public Health

March 18, 2020

Statistics

There is currently one known case: an Amador county resident traveling abroad has been diagnosed with novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This individual has not been at home in the county. No persons in the county were exposed.

Local Activations & Declarations

The Amador County Public Health Department has activated its Department Operations Center (DOC) March 4, 2020 to effectively respond to the COVID-19 incident, including communication and coordination with our federal, state, and local partners.

Dr. Rita Kerr, Amador County Health Officer has declared a local health emergency to enhance the effectiveness of the response to COVID-19, to seek and utilize mutual aid, potentially obtain reimbursement for costs incurred during this response, and ensure that the County's public health professionals and providers have all necessary resources to provide quality care and keep our community safe. Along with this declaration, Dr. Kerr has issued an order to support the guidance on mass gatherings released by the State.

An Emergency Proclamation is pending ratification by the Amador County Board of Supervisors.

Community Agencies that Serve Seniors (this list is not inclusive)

The Senior Center at 229 New York Ranch Road will be closed to public walk-ins. Senior Center staff will be reallocated to help seniors with delivery of medications, groceries, supplies/necessities. The Senior Center will have meals available for drive-through service by reservation only for seniors who previously completed an intake form. Drive-through pick up lunch program will operate between 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. Please call the Senior Center at 223-0442.

Area 12 Agency on Aging will be closed for in-person services but available by phone Monday through Friday 8 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 5 pm. All HICAP appointments will be conducted by phone.

Many other community agencies and businesses are modifying their services to minimize in-person contact. Please call ahead of visiting.

Testing

Testing is being conducted at the discretion of health care providers in the community, based on their clinical assessment and current recommended guidance.

Tests that need to be conducted through the Public Health laboratory system are coordinated with our Public Health Department.

Testing is available through Quest laboratories with a health care provider's order. These tests are not required to be communicated to the Public Health Department, but our local providers are encouraged to notify the Health Department via fax: (209) 223-1562.

Any positive test result must be reported to the Public Health Department immediately by telephone at (209) 223-6407 in accordance with Title 17 requirements.

Mass Gatherings

Guidance from the State was issued on March 11, 2020 regarding mass gatherings in an effort to slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19 in California [newer Federal guidance was issued March 15, 2020. See below]

A “gathering” is any event or convening that brings together people in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria, or any other indoor or outdoor space.

Large gatherings should be postponed or cancelled. This includes gatherings such as concerts, conferences, and professional, college, and school sporting events.

Smaller gatherings held in venues that do not allow social distancing of six feet per person should be postponed or canceled. This includes gatherings in crowded auditoriums, rooms or other venues

Gatherings of individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people. This includes gatherings such as those at retirement facilities, assisted living facilities, developmental homes, and support groups for people with health conditions.

Guidance will be updated as needed to remain consistent with state and federal recommendations.

Please review the guidance details here:

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Gathering_Guidance_03.11.20.pdf

CDC Guidance on Mass Gatherings (released March 15, 2020)

Recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States.

Events of any size should only be continued if they can be carried out with adherence to guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations, hand hygiene, and social distancing. When feasible, organizers should modify events to be virtual.

This recommendation does not apply to the day to day operation of organizations such as schools, institutes of higher learning, or businesses. This recommendation is made in an attempt to reduce introduction of the virus into new communities and to slow the spread of infection in communities already affected by the virus.

Please view the guidance details here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>

Schools

The Amador County Superintendent of Schools announced on March 16, 2020 that all public schools will close in an effort to provide time for planning for a possible long term shut down due to COVID-19. Public schools will reopen on March 30th unless conditions call for an extension. Please view the ACUSD/ACOE guidance letter here: <https://www.amadorgov.org/home/showdocument?id=34829>
Private school closure is at school administrator discretion.

Please view the CDPH COVID-19 Schools guidance here:

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/School%20Guidance_ADA%20Compliant_FINAL.pdf

COVID-19 Guidance Highlights

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has their guidance documents available in one place: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx>

ACPH Guidance for Select Groups may be viewed here: <https://www.amadorgov.org/services/public-health/covid-19/covid-19-guidance-for-selected-groups>

The following guidelines were shared during the Governor's live update on March 15, 2020 (we are awaiting official documents on these guidelines):

Those who are 65 years and older should self-isolate at home (we are anticipating guidance regarding which workers over 65 years of age or older are considered essential and should continue to work).

Those with underlying health conditions which can put them at increased risk should self-isolate at home.

All bars, wineries, pubs, and nightclubs should close. Restaurants should reduce their occupancy by half and implement social distancing measures.

Only end of life visitation will be allowed at hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other congregate living facilities. Sutter Amador Hospital is also allowing a "birthing partner" into the delivery room. Sutter Amador has postponed elective surgeries.

What You Can Do

Practice everyday prevention actions to stay healthy.

Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds, or with hand sanitizer if soap is not available.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

If you are ill, stay home. If other family members are ill, including children, keep them home.

Practice social distancing: put more space between yourself and others. About 6 feet is advised. If you can, avoid contact with people who are sick.

Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects often with soap and water or household cleaners. Don't forget your cell phone.

Per official Coronavirus Guidelines: If you are a person with a serious underlying health condition that can put you at increased risk (e.g., a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.

Per official Coronavirus Guidelines: If you are young or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to stop the spread of coronavirus: Work or engage in schools from home whenever possible.

If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, such as first responders, government, healthcare services, pharmaceutical and food supply, you have special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

Avoid eating and drinking in restaurants and food courts – use drive-through, pickup, or delivery options.

Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips, and social visits.

Practice good hygiene.

If someone in your household has tested positive for COVID-19, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider and your employer.

If you have symptoms or get sick:

Stay home, unless you need to seek medical care.

Stay away from other people, pets, and animals. As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and use a separate bathroom if available.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor, clinic, or hospital.

Wear a face mask to avoid spreading germs.

Cover your cough with a tissue and immediately throw it in the trash, or cough into your bent elbow. Wash your hands after using a tissue.

Wash your hands often and avoid sharing personal items.

Please reference Amador County Public Health guidance for cleaning and disinfection:

<https://www.amadorgov.org/services/public-health/covid-19/covid-19-guidance-for-selected-groups>

Please see the CDC recommendations here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

Stay Informed

Stay tuned to the Public Health website: <https://www.amadorgov.org/services/covid-19>

Follow Public Health on Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/amador.healthdepartment>

Visit the CDPH website:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

Visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>