



**WILLIAM "TEX" DOWDY**  
Sheriff- Coroner

# MODOC COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

102 South Court Street - P.O. Drawer 460 - Alturas, California 96101

Telephone : 530.233.4416 Fax : 530.233.1235 Email : tdowdy@modocsheriff.us

## **PRESS RELEASE- For Immediate Release**

April 23, 2020 @ 1500 HRS

**Alturas, CA-** The Modoc County Health Officer, Modoc County Sheriff's Office, Modoc County Health Services, Modoc County Office of Emergency Services and the Modoc County Board of Supervisors have been in collaboration to develop a staged strategic plan to reopen Modoc County. They reached out to other Northern California Counties this week to find out where they stand in reopening. Many Counties will be submitting similar proposals to the Governor in hopes of support in opening Rural California.

This plan will unfold in stages with preventative measures in place to protect the residents of Modoc County. "The plan is well thought out and gives us the ability to roll things back in if needed. To be successful, our residents are still going to have to be diligent about social distancing, proper sanitation, hygiene and protecting that vulnerable population." said Stacy Sphar, Director of Health Services. "We are more than ready for any type of medical surge. We are prepared to handle twice the surge capability that the state recommends for our area. We have ample testing capacity, staff and resources. Our Health Officer and I are confident in this plan." added Sphar.

Modoc County remains at ZERO confirmed cases. Surrounding counties continue to stay stagnant or at zero. "A majority of the positive cases in Northern California have recovered. Our County has taken a proactive stance on COVID-19 during this entire incident. We have led the way in many ways and are asking the Governor to let us lead the way in opening California. Our rural living lifestyle and the fact that our residents have been abiding by the guidelines has kept us at zero. We are the perfect choice to pilot a reopening in the state." stated Sheriff Tex Dowdy.

Letters requesting support have been sent from the Modoc County Sheriff and the Health Officer to Governor Newsom along with the developed plan. "Under the direction and guidance of our Health Officer, we are prepared to move forward with this plan in a manner that mitigates undue risk to the public. The framework that the President and the Governor have laid out is what we are basing our guidelines on. We can still abide by these guidelines but adjust our structure to fit Modoc County. We have proven that we can continue our efforts to contain COVID-19 while also adopting safe standards that will allow us to begin the process of reopening. Modoc needs to begin this process. We need to salvage our local economy." added Sheriff Dowdy.

Modoc County will be releasing details of their plan to the public early next week giving the Governor time to respond to the County's request. "Our plan is to begin the first phase on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The proposal lays out stages, protocols and trigger points that will be monitored so that if positive cases do occur, we can reevaluate as needed. Modoc County is ready to open." added Sphar.