



HEALTH ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Modoc April 6~~7~~, 2020

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IMPORTANCE OF COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES

Different areas of the state are experiencing different stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. The state of California currently has over 14,000 confirmed cases and more than 330 people have died. Modoc County continues to have ZERO confirmed cases of COVID-19. However, due to the high communicability of this virus we do anticipate that we will see cases in Modoc County.

To prepare for this, our Public Health team has worked closely with our local hospitals to implement surge capacity in our healthcare system. Along with surge capacity readiness, our hospitals are continuing to test community members and provide care to those who are sick, even when it is not COVID-19 related. They are structuring a personal protective equipment plan to ensure they have the needed supplies to keep our healthcare professionals safe while treating COVID-19 positive patients.

Our local Health Officer, Dr. Edward P. Richert, has asked that everyone in Modoc County adhere to the Governor's Stay at Home Order. This order allows for essential workers to continue working so that we can assure the essential needs of our community members, such as food supplies, banking, and government activity, are met. Other interventions our Health Officer recommends are social distancing when we are out in public and wearing a cloth mask if you have it available. These interventions help us "flatten the curve" of this pandemic. Flattening the curve means reducing and delaying peak demands for beds and ventilators.

We need everyone in Modoc to do their part.

Modoc County Public Health is continually following the state, regional and local modeling projections. Modeling is not a prediction but instead a method used for planning scenarios. These scenarios help us understand what may happen in different situations or sets of assumptions. If we choose not to adhere to staying home and social distancing, these models show us we will see an uncontrolled demand for hospital beds that would exceed our current hospitals capacity by 10 times. However, if we practice social distancing and stay home as much as possible, we are able to decrease the peak of the pandemic for Modoc to keep within our hospitals surge capacity.

Staying at home when you are not engaging in essential business, practicing social distancing when you are in public, washing your hands often, covering your cough or sneeze, not touching your face and STAYING HOME when you are sick will help us all stay safe from the virus.