



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

March 19, 2020 @ 2000 HOURS

Alturas, CA- Modoc County has zero confirmed cases of COVID-19. "In response to Governor Newsom's address tonight, we want to make sure that you understand that we were as shocked as you upon hearing about the statewide executive order to shelter in place. We were given about a ten-minute head's up before the live press conference." -said Sheriff Tex Dowdy. "We are standing behind our current recommendations of social distancing and simple measures like washing your hands to prevent the spread of COVID-19." Added Dowdy.

"In our thirteen-county region, there was only one positive case in Shasta County, that has since recovered. This executive order changes very little in Modoc County at this time. We want to encourage social distancing. If you are able to stay home and in that vulnerable population, please stay home to protect yourself."- said Interim Health Services Director Stacy Sphar.

"Essential services in Modoc County are going to look different than essential services in the Bay Area or metropolitan areas. The Governor did not outline an enforcement guideline or plans in this order. These decisions and actions are constantly being re-evaluated by our team to ensure the safety of our community." Added Sheriff Dowdy.

The Governor has specifically said the following essential services will remain open such as:

- Healthcare & Pharmacy services
- Food: Grocery stores, farmers markets, food banks, convenience stores, take-out restaurants and delivery restaurants
- Banks
- Gas Stations
- Laundromats
- Veterinarian & Livestock Supply
- Veterinarian Services
- Hardware
- Home & Auto Repair
- Agricultural Operations

Essential state and local government functions will also remain open, including:

- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Services
- Offices that provide government programs and services

We will be working with local businesses to determine how this executive order applies to our rural County. Many of our businesses are essential to our wellness and support of other identified essential services in Modoc. Many of the services provided by local government are considered essential to our community and private business infrastructure. We will strive to support our community and local businesses in this very challenging time. "Please remember that we have already implemented these protocols for social distancing and continue to stress the importance of this intervention." – said Modoc County Health Officer Dr. Edward P. Richert. In preparation of what was occurring in other counties in CA, Modoc County has already instituted the same protections that are relevant for our rural communities. Moving forward the incident management team in coordination with the County Health Officer will be working on determining further refinement of essential services in Modoc County.