

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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ORDER OF THE EL DORADO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER RESTRICTING TRAVEL INTO THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN AREA OF EL DORADO COUNTY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK

APRIL 3, 2020

WHEREAS, a state of emergency has been declared by the State of California, local emergencies have been declared in El Dorado County and the Cities of Placerville and South Lake Tahoe, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20, the ‘Stay-at-Home’ order on March 19, 2020 for the entire state of California with no set end date, and on March 29, 2020 President Trump extended national social-distancing guidance through April 30, 2020, all in response to the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the El Dorado County Public Health Officer (Health Officer) issued a Directive on March 19, 2020 restricting activities within the County, which has been extended through April 30, 2020 and issued a subsequent Directive on March 24, 2020 clarifying the meanings of nonessential travel and appropriate use of short-term rentals; and

WHEREAS, travel for owners to occupy their second homes is interpreted to be nonessential; and

WHEREAS, continued inappropriate travel into the Tahoe Basin for nonessential purposes is still occurring; and

WHEREAS, visitors further impact an already decreased availability of essential supplies and food at grocery stores and pharmacies; and

WHEREAS, there is insufficient critical healthcare infrastructure and resources, including hospital beds, ventilators, and workers to adequately treat mass numbers of patients concurrently as might be needed if the virus continues to spread at current rates; and

WHEREAS, residents and healthcare facilities have been seriously impacted in other resort areas in the U.S. that are similar in nature to the Lake Tahoe region, including numerous counties in Colorado and Blaine County, Idaho, by visitors having imported COVID-19 infections into their communities; and

WHEREAS, although El Dorado County normally welcomes visitors and highly values visitors to Lake Tahoe as significant contributors to the local economy, during the COVID-19 crisis residents in the Lake Tahoe area are deemed to be at excess risk from a nonessential influx of visitors to the area;

WHEREAS, it is the Health Officer's responsibility to take action protect the health of all county residents; and

WHEREAS, Barton Memorial Hospital is the only general acute care hospital in the Tahoe Basin and has been notified that its usual back-up facilities for accommodating patient surge will not be accepting patient transfers due to COVID-19 cases already impacting them.

NOW, THEREFORE, the El Dorado County Health Officer orders the cessation of all nonessential travel into the El Dorado County portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin effective immediately. Unless extended, terminated, or modified by the Health Officer in writing, this order shall remain in place through April 30, 2020.



Nancy Williams, MD, MPH
El Dorado County Public Health Officer

4/3/2020

Date