



**Media Contact:**

Justin Caporusso  
Public Information Manager  
Mono County  
[jcaporusso@mono.ca.gov](mailto:jcaporusso@mono.ca.gov)  
916-412-0571

**Mono County Urges Participation in  
Public Health Protocols Heading into Holiday Weekend**

**MONO COUNTY, Calif. (July 02, 2020)** – Mono County Public Health invites residents and visitors to celebrate in a safe and responsible manner as we head into the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend. This includes encouraging everyone to heed measures designed to prevent COVID-19 (Coronavirus) infection spread, including physical distancing, hand-washing, and wearing face coverings. Working together, we can **Stay Safe To Stay Open**.

“We all want to have a fun, successful holiday weekend and a nice summer,” stated Stacy Corless, Chair of the Mono County Board of Supervisors. “This virus isn’t taking a vacation, though, and being in the mountains doesn’t make us immune. We have to protect each other and strictly follow safety guidelines - visitors, residents, business owners, everyone.”

“The Fourth of July is a special time to celebrate our independence as a nation with family and friends, but this year is notably different,” stated Dr. Tom Boo, Mono County Health Officer. “Now, more than ever, we must be vigilant and adhere to local and state guidelines, such as only gathering (outdoor picnics and barbeques) with members of a single household, wearing a face covering in many situations, respecting physical distancing, washing or sanitizing your hands often, and staying home if you are sick,” said Dr. Boo.

Mono County Public Health urges residents to follow the following protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community:

- **Avoid gathering:**
  - Gatherings with people outside of your household unit are not allowed. This includes BBQs, parties and celebrations.
  - Avoid crowds.

- **Clean your hands often:**
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- **Avoid close contact:**
  - Maintain a distance of 6-feet when interacting with others.
  - Avoid close contact with individuals who are sick.
- **Stay home if you're sick:**
  - Self-isolate if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- **Cover coughs and sneezes:**
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
  - Throw used tissues in the trash.
  - Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
- **Wear a face covering in public:**
  - Wear a face covering when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter any public space.
- **Clean and disinfect:**
  - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
  - If surfaces are dirty, clean them with soap and water prior to disinfection.

Earlier today, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a statement from California Public Health Officials warning against gathering for the Fourth of July Weekend. The statement reads: *"Traditionally, Fourth of July is a time of gathering to celebrate the freedoms this country offers us. This year, however, family gatherings are playing a significant role in the spread of COVID-19. Any time two households mix together, we risk getting each other sick. For some people, especially adults who are older and people with health issues, COVID-19 can have*

*serious and even deadly consequences. Any public or private events this weekend that include people who do not live together in the same household should not happen. This includes family get-togethers. If you live in a county on the [county monitoring list](#), your county should consider cancelling firework shows. In counties not on the list, municipal fireworks displays may still happen, but to watch them, residents must find ways to watch them from their cars and apart from others. Gatherings around these events should be canceled. This Independence Day, let's show our patriotism by protecting one another. Let's stay apart from those who don't live with us, and when we're out, protect one another by wearing a face covering, physically distancing, and washing our hands frequently."* The full CDPH press release can be accessed here: <http://www.oesnews.com/california-public-health-officials-warn-against-gathering-for-fourth-of-july-weekend/>

**Fireworks Prohibited in Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes** (Town of Bridgeport excluded)

To ensure a safe holiday experience for everyone, please observe the following:

- Fireworks are illegal on public lands, including the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Inyo National Forest (INF), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.
- Due to EXTREME FIRE DANGER, the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District, Long Valley Fire Department, Mammoth Lakes Police Department, California Highway Patrol and Mono County Sheriff will enforce a "zero tolerance" policy with respect to the possession and use of fireworks. Fireworks violations will be strictly enforced.

For information on recreating on the Inyo National Forest over the Fourth of July Weekend, click here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/inyo/recreation>. For information on recreating on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest over Fourth of July weekend, click here: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFSR4/bulletins/293a552>.

Please be aware that leisure travel, while no longer prohibited by the State of California, continues to be discouraged during the ongoing COVID-19 health emergency. The California Department of Public Health states, *"Even though businesses around the state are opening up, avoid traveling long distances for vacations or pleasure as much as possible. This is to slow the spread of the Coronavirus. Do not travel if you are sick, or if someone in your household has had Coronavirus in the last two weeks. Do not travel with someone who is sick."*

**Mono County COVID-19 Local Information & Resources**

- Website: [MonoHealth.com/Coronavirus](https://monohealth.com/Coronavirus) or Spanish: <https://monohealth.com/coronavirus-es>
- Email: [COVID19Help@mono.ca.gov](mailto:COVID19Help@mono.ca.gov)
- Town Short-term Rental Hotline: (760) 965-3670 or [tot@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](mailto:tot@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov)

- *Town Code Enforcement: (760) 965-3636*
- *Mono County COVID-19 Violations: [covid19violations@mono.ca.gov](mailto:covid19violations@mono.ca.gov)*

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