

MONO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Public Health Officer Order:
Ordering the Temporary In-Person Closure of Mammoth
High School, Mammoth Middle School, Mammoth
Elementary School, Sierra High School, Husky Club, MCOE
Inclusive Preschool and the
Mammoth Lakes Head Start Preschool

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January 8, 2022

WHEREAS, a state of emergency has been declared by the State of California, and local emergencies have been declared in Mono County in response to the virus COVID-19 (Coronavirus); and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California for the 2021-22 school year, on the foundational principle that all students must have access to safe and full in-person instruction and to as much instructional time as possible; and

WHEREAS, in Mammoth Schools, student and staff COVID cases have doubled in one week; there have been nearly 3 positive cases an hour during each school day this week; there have been several small outbreaks in classes that have 3 or more positive COVID cases; Husky Club has had 7 positive cases with exposure to other students; 23% of MUSD students have been absent since Tuesday January 4, and 19% of staff has been absent due to COVID; and

WHEREAS, The District is initiating closure pursuant to an emergency as that term is defined in Education Code section 41422 due to the shortage of staff available to ensure compliance with CDPH guidelines and safety on campus for all students and in order to provide uninterrupted academic instruction through distance learning;

NOW, THEREFORE, under the authority of California Health and Safety Code sections 101040, 101085 and 120175 and Title 17 California Code of Regulations, Section 2501; Article XI of the California Constitution; California Government Code Sections 8634, and 8665, the Mono County Health Officer:

HEREBY ORDERS as follows:

1. The recitals in this Order are incorporated herein as Findings.
2. Mammoth Unified School District's **Mammoth High School, Mammoth Middle School, Mammoth Elementary School, Sierra High School, Husky Club**, Mono County Office of Education's **Inclusive Preschool** on the campus of Mammoth Elementary School and Inyo-Mono Advocates for Community Action **Mammoth**

Head Start Preschool shall be closed for in-person instruction/activities beginning at 12:01 am on Monday, **January 10, 2022**, and may re-open for in-person instruction and activities as of 11:59 pm on **January 28, 2022**.

3. This closure does not apply to school-related activities, such as sports, which are conducted entirely outdoors.

General Provisions

1. This Order is issued as a result of the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 disease, also known as “novel coronavirus,” which has infected at least 197 million individuals worldwide in 220 countries and is implicated in over 4.2 million worldwide deaths, including 1271 cases and five deaths in Mono County.

2. This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 within Mammoth Lakes schools, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approach to slow transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, as well as best practices as currently known and available to protect the public from the risk of spread of or exposure to COVID-19. The current situation at Mammoth Unified School District and Head Start Preschool, with the high volume of students and staff who have been exposed to or infected with COVID-19, and the lack of staff now available to ensure compliance with CDPH protocol for safe schools, including the testing and monitoring of individuals under modified quarantine, make it unsafe for the school to remain open at this time.

3. This Order is intended to reduce the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19 in the Schools, thereby slowing the spread of COVID-19 in the community and the County as well as, on a larger scale, to communities worldwide. As the presence of individuals increases, the difficulty and magnitude of tracing individuals who may have been exposed to a case rises exponentially.

4. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the: March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom; the March 15, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency based on an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of novel COVID-19 in Mono County; the March 17, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mono proclaiming the existence of a Local Emergency in the County of Mono regarding COVID-19 and ratifying and extending the Declaration of Local Health Emergency due to COVID-19; all current applicable guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health.

5. This Order is made in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, including but not limited to: Health and Safety Code sections 101030, et seq.; Health and Safety Code sections 120100, et seq.; and Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations section 2501.

6. To the extent necessary, pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and

Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all Chiefs of Police in the County ensure compliance with and enforcement of this Order.

7. This Order is made because of the propensity of the virus to spread person-to-person.

8. Copies of this Order shall promptly be posted on the County of Mono's Public Health Department's website (monohealth.com) and provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

Caryn K Slack

Caryn K Slack (Jan 8, 2022 10:23 PST)

Date Jan 8, 2022

Caryn K Slack, MD, MPH

Local Health Officer

for Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes