



SISKIYOU COUNTY

Health and Human Services Agency

SARAH COLLARD, PH.D.

Director of Health and Human Services Agency

STEPHEN KOLPACOFF, M.D.

Public Health Officer

SHELLY DAVIS, MN BSN PHN CCHP

Director of Public Health Division

Director of Nursing/Inmate Medical

DATE: 2/27/2020

FOR RELEASE: Immediate

Public Health Advisory Related to Ongoing COVID-19 Outbreak

Siskiyou County Public Health staff has been diligently working in coordination with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) with the most current guidelines on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. It is our mission to keep our citizens of Siskiyou County informed on where we are in this process. We are continuously monitoring the situation, and the health risk to the general public in California remains low. We are not over-reacting, nor under-reacting to the COVID-19 outbreak, as we have protocols that have been in place for many years for situations like this.

As of February 27, 2020, there are a total of 33 positive cases in California: 24 are from repatriation flights, which are flights returning to California from high risk areas. The other nine confirmed cases include seven that are travel related, one due to person-to-person exposure from a very close contact (a spouse) and one from an unknown source (possible community spread). At this time, there are zero confirmed cases in Siskiyou County.

Typically, human coronaviruses cause mild-to-moderate respiratory illness. Symptoms are very similar to the flu, including: fever, cough, and shortness of breath. In some cases, COVID-19 can cause more severe respiratory illness.

As with any influenza illness, it is recommended to use the following steps to prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses:

- Washing hands with soap and water.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Staying away from work, school or other people if you become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough.

These are all ways to reduce the risk of infection with a number of different viruses.

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

Siskiyou County Health and Human Services Agency

810 South Main Street

Yreka, CA 96097

(530) 841-2134 / Fax (530) 841-4094

We recognize there are concerns about novel (new) coronavirus, and understandably so. Although coronaviruses are a group of viruses that aren't new, this is a new type of coronavirus and we are still learning about it. However, the health risk to the general public in California remains low.

At this time, Siskiyou County Public Health Department along with CDPH, are NOT recommending to wear respiratory masks unless experiencing flu-like symptoms as mentioned above. If you are experiencing symptoms, contact your physician prior to entering their facility or the emergency department.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Public Health at 530-841-2134.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SKolpacoff MD', written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Kolpacoff, MD
Public Health Officer