

Del Norte County public health officer declares public health emergency

March 20, 2020



In response to the imminent threat of COVID-19, Del Norte County Public Health Officer Dr. Warren Rehwaldt has declared a Public Health Emergency in conjunction with a local emergency declared by County Administrative Officer Jay Sarina.

There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Del Norte County, but officials are preparing for its inevitable presence within the community.

However, it is important to declare an emergency because doing so provides additional access to resources and authorities needed to successfully mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and to protect the health and safety of the community.

Increased demands are already being placed on Del Norte Health and Human Services, Public Health Department and Office of Emergency Services, as well as our community partners who are part of the response such as hospitals, clinics, emergency medical services (EMS), law enforcement, fire departments and other agencies.

Additionally, impacts on critical public infrastructure and services could follow, which will require the provision of additional public safety and emergency services. Community transmission will undoubtedly increase the burden on these resources.

Per state and county code, the Board of Supervisors must ratify both the declaration and proclamation within seven days. The board is expected to take up these items at its March 24 meeting.

For current information about COVID-19, go to [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or [CDPH.ca.gov](https://www.cdph.ca.gov). Local information is available 24 hours a day at the sites listed below or during business hours by calling 707-464-0861:

- www.facebook.com/dncpublichealth/
- www.facebook.com/DelNorteOfficeOfEmergencyServices/
- www.co.del-norte.ca.us/departments/health-human-services/public-health
- www.preparedelnorte.com/