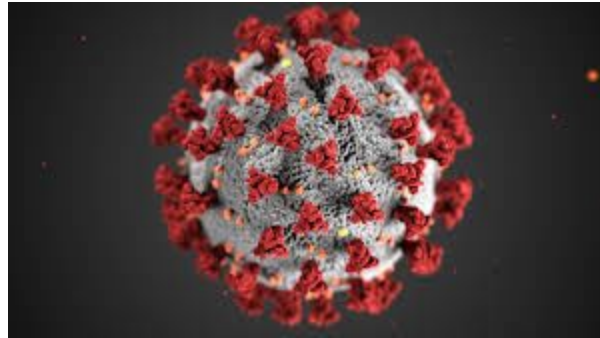


## County, city release joint statement about COVID-19 response

March 24, 2020



Del Norte County Supervisor Chair Gerry Hemmingsen and Crescent City Mayor Blake Inscore gave a joint statement on the COVID-19 response via Facebook Friday.

Hemmingsen: “The current emergent conditions related to the COVID-19 virus have placed everyone on edge, disrupted lives and impacted people in ways people in our community have not experienced in years.

The COVID-19 virus is very real and can be extremely harmful to individuals and should be taken seriously. However, as we adapt to our new lifestyles, we need to understand the immediate risk and the risk over a period of time.

At this time, Del Norte County has had 26 people tested, with 15 negative tests and 11 pending. The projections from the state is we will experience positive tests in the near future.

As a local government, we are actively addressing services to the community from the perspective departments. We are continuing those essential services throughout this emergency.

We realize the governor’s order has caused more questions and confusion than answers. And this is true in many other counties.

To that end, please continue to live your lives with the following prudent measures: Avoid large gatherings, distance yourself from others as recommended, go about your essential business, get your groceries, walk, hike and talk with your family. We can assist the community by avoiding the spread of the virus and have a responsibility to do so.

The governor’s order is not a shutdown for everything we do. By following these simple steps, we can be a part of the solution, not part of the problem.”

Inscore: Our staffs are working diligently to assist local businesses to understand what the order means and what they will be required to do and what the responsible thing to do.

The City of Crescent City and Del Norte County, working through the County Office of Emergency Services (OES), are working hard to address all of these concerns. OES is currently at a level two and we are taking all of this very seriously for our community.

We are also setting up an economic resiliency section that would be in a position to offer businesses the latest information about funding opportunities and answer any questions as business people they may have. We hope this will streamline that process and reduce some of the stress that is being dumped on our business community.

We want for our community to understand that this emergency requires us to avoid large gatherings and we request you follow the public health officer's order regarding social distancing and hygiene and to conduct your lives as normal as possible even with these guidelines. So, when you can stay home, please do so.

In times of emergency, it's up to all of us to do our part, for you to do your part. Please reach out to your neighbors, especially the elderly and those who are fragile. Make sure you know what they might need and how you might be able to help.

Be patient with workers who are doing their very best to you and to our community. We're all here to help. How we react to emergencies says a whole lot about us as a community. We've faced adversity in the past and we've lived to fight another day. And we're going to do the same thing in this emergency.

I also want to assure you on behalf of the City of Crescent City and Del Norte County that this is not a "one-and-done" announcement. We will be here regularly to try and update you, give you updates as we have information.

We want you to be informed. And sometimes I know it feels like you're not getting all the information you would like to have. We're here to give you the accurate information.

We will give you regular updates. If you have questions, please reach out to the city and the county, let us know your questions and we will do the very best to get that information to you.

Thank you. We look forward to speaking to you again and want you to stay safe and healthy.