

Fair to go on as scheduled this week

August 5, 2021



Despite local public health officials recommending the public forgo large gatherings, the Del Norte County Fair will go on.

Heather Snow, director of health and human services, issued a press release Tuesday urging the public to avoid large gatherings due to the resurgence of COVID-19 in the county caused by the more contagious Delta variant, which has been confirmed in the county, as well as low vaccination rates.

In the release, county public health recommended the public observe the following precautions, if they plan to attend a large gathering in the near future such as the fair.

Wear a mask at all times when around others, even if you are vaccinated.

Maintain a distance of at least six feet from others outside your household when possible.

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Do not share food or drinks with those outside your household.

On Tuesday, the county reported two more deaths associated with the virus, bringing the total to 10. Additionally, 14 new cases were reported on Tuesday, and there were 55 additional cases over the weekend. As of press time, there are 138 active cases, 11 of them are in the hospital.

Overall, the county has seen 1,747 confirmed cases of the virus since the beginning of the pandemic. According to public health, the majority have been with unvaccinated individuals. So far, 33.9% of Del Norte residents are fully vaccinated, according to state data. In comparison, 50.7% of eligible residents in neighboring Humboldt county are vaccinated.

Kim Floyd, fair general manager, said the fairgrounds is implementing a laundry list of COVID-19 related precautions, including online ticket sales, additional portable toilets and handwashing stations and moving most events outdoors to try to keep the fair safe. Floyd also said all patrons should wear a mask.

“My motto is safety first. The fair is supposed to be fun and family-oriented and a place where you can just have fun and be safe...but by all means, if you don’t feel good please stay at home,” said Floyd.

While the fair was cancelled last year, due to COVID-19, Floyd said as many as 20,000 to 30,000 people have attended the fair in years past. Many of them come from the surrounding inland communities, she said.

“We are anticipating a great fair. We’ve worked really hard, so I think everything will work,” said Floyd.

If you do plan on attending the fair, expect to find returning events and attractions such as the Redwood Coast Rodeo, Mutton Bustin’, a demolition derby and Tuff Trucks, livestock auctions, carnival rides and the Highway 101 Classic Car show. New events this year include pit bike races and a juggling, unicyclist comedian.

To find a full list of events or purchase tickets, visit the fair’s website at: <https://www.dnfair.org/>