

DECLARATION NO. 2020-03

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY IN LASSEN COUNTY RELATIVE TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS – COVID 19 AND THE TRANSPORT OF INMATES INTO THE COUNTY

WHEREAS, pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 101080, the Lassen County Health Officer declared the potential introduction of COVID-19 into Lassen County is a threat to the public health within the meaning of Health & Safety Code section 101080; and

WHEREAS a local health emergency was declared in Lassen County commencing on or about 11:00 AM of the 20th day of March 2020; and

WHEREAS, on the 20th day of March, the Lassen County Health Officer, Dr. Kenneth Korver issued the recommendation that all transportation of inmates, be they federal or state, from institutions outside of the County of Lassen who are being brought into the County of Lassen or transportation of inmates from institutions within the County of Lassen, state or federal, being moved to institutions outside the County of Lassen, be discontinued until further order of the County Health Officer; and

WHEREAS, on the 8th day of June 2020, The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) transferred inmates from outside the County of Lassen, San Quentin State Prison, to within the County of Lassen, The California Correctional Center (CCC), without testing or quarantining them once they arrived, refusing to adhere the recommendation of the Lassen County Health Officer; and

WHEREAS, on the 21st day of June 2020, CCC reported to the Lassen County Public Health Department that three of the recently transported inmates had tested positive of COVID-19 along with one inmate transfer that was housed with one of the infected inmates; and

WHEREAS, on the 21st day of June 2020, CCC requested 2500 COVID sample test kits from the Lassen County Public Health Department and in the spirit of collaboration, Lassen County Public Health Department provided approximately 2500 COVID sample test kits to CCC; and

WHEREAS, on the 23rd day of June 2020, the Deputy Director of Facility Operations, Division of Adult Institutions issued an email directing that effective immediately CCC will serve as the statewide hub for male conservation camp inmates requiring that they be returned to CCC for COVID-19 related reasons; and

WHEREAS, on the evening of the 24th day of June, 2020, CCC reported to the Lassen County Public Health Department that 22 inmates had tested positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on the morning of the 25th day of June, CCC reported to the Lassen County Public Health Department that over 76 inmates had tested positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS CDCR has failed to identify exposed employees and provide a list of exposed employees within 72 hours of identification of the exposure to the County of Lassen, a direct violation of Title 17, Div. 1, Chapter 4, California Code of Regulations; and

WHEREAS, CDCR has not communicated, collaborated or shared a response plan to the COVID-19 outbreak within CCC and HDSP to the County of Lassen; and

WHEREAS, on the 29th day of June, CCC requested an additional 3000 sample test kits from the Lassen County Incident Command Team. demonstrating an ongoing lack of sufficient pandemic planning, which we did not supply based on guidance from California Department of Public Health (CDPH); and

WHEREAS on the 30th day of June, there are 214 COVID-19 positive inmates at CCC and 4 COVID-19 positive inmates at HDSP, with an unknown number of employees, due to a lack of cooperation by CCC to provide Lassen County Public Health with a list of names of exposed employees for investigation; and

WHEREAS, CDCR has proven the inability to confine the COVID-19 pandemic, allowed it to spread to two institutions within the County of Lassen and demonstrated an indifference of the impacts to the limited rural healthcare system within Lassen County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Lassen County Health Officer, Dr. Kenneth Korver declares:

- 1) The introduction of COVID-19 to CCC and HDSP by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the "Released While Active" inmates to Lassen County is a threat to the County of Lassen.
- 2) A local health emergency is declared in Lassen County commencing on or about 10:00 a.m./~~xxx~~ of the 30th day of June 2020.

June 30, 2020
Date


KENNETH KORVER, MD
Health Officer
County of Lassen