



# LASSEN COUNTY

## Kenneth G Korver, M.D. Public Health Officer

- HSS Administration**
- Public Guardian**  
336 Alexander Avenue  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 251-8128
- Grant and Loans Division**  
1445 Paul Bunyan Road  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 251-8309
- Behavioral Health**  
555 Hospital Lane  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 251-8108/8112
- Chestnut Annex**  
1400-A & B Chestnut Street  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 251-8112
- Patients' Rights Advocate**  
336 Alexander Avenue  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 251-8322
- Public Health**  
1445 Paul Bunyan Road  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 251-8183
- Environmental Health**  
1445 Paul Bunyan Road  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 251-8183
- Community Social Services**  
336 Alexander Avenue  
Susanville, CA 96130
- LassenWORKS  
Business & Career Network**  
PO Box 1359  
1616 Chestnut Street  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 251-8152
- Child & Family Services**  
1600 Chestnut Street  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 251-8277
- Adult Services**  
PO Box 429  
1445 Paul Bunyan Road  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 251-8158
- HSS Fiscal**  
PO Box 1180  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530)251-2614

Date: April 28, 2020

To: Sonia Y. Angell, MD, MPH  
California State Public Health Officer

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California

From: Kenneth Korver, MD  
Lassen County Health Officer

Re: Lassen County Request for Approval of Recovery Plan

Lassen County and our community partners have come together to establish an economic and societal recovery plan for reopening services and activities that were closed during the COVID-19 pandemic response or had greatly reduced services and activities. We are requesting your approval so that we may proceed with a thoughtful Countywide opening.

Our local Plan is based Governor Newsom's "California's Roadmap to Modify the Stay-at-Home Order", released on April 28, 2020. We also relied on your March 19, 2020, "Order of the Health Officer" directive for clarification on identifying the critical infrastructure during COVID-19 as referenced in your health order.

The Lassen County Plan is our roadmap toward local community economic and social vitality. Our Plan identifies the steps necessary to continue to limit the spread of COVID-19 disease; however, allows for regression to a prior phase should a spike in community transmission of COVID-19 occur. We recognize that state, federal, regional, and local support and personal responsibility is critical for this Plan to work.

### BACKGROUND

Lassen County responded early on to the unprecedented potential that the impact of COVID-19 may have on our community members. On March 1, 2020, we initiated our Public Health Emergency Preparedness Department Operations Center.

In response to the Governor's modeling projecting a 56% COVID-19 transmission throughout California, we opened a multiagency Joint Unified Incident Command (IC) on March 26, 2020. The IC worked diligently to prepare plans to ensure that we could mobilize an aggressive response to a COVID-19 surge if needed. We continue to operate under the Joint IC.

Lassen County tested the first person exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms on March 3, 2020. The test results were negative. To date, we have tested 121. The results of these tests have all been negative. Despite having three prisons and an army base in our county, along with Hwy 36 which runs through our city center, we continue to have zero positive known cases of Coronavirus in Lassen County.

However, the economic and societal affects have been devastating to an already economically depressed rural area. Our law enforcement and first responders are facing more domestic violence calls and our social workers have great concern for our children living in unstable homes. Since these children are not able to go to school, they are not being seen by mandatory reporters.

Below you will find a timeline of our efforts to date. Following the timeline is a summary of our recovery plan for your review and approval.

## **LASSEN COUNTY TIMELINE**

- Opened Public Health Department Emergency Preparedness Department Operations Center (DOC), March 1, 2020
- Opened Joint Information Center (JIC), March 5, 2020
- Opened Emergency Operations Center (EOC), March 19, 2020
- Declaration of Local Health Emergency, No. 2020-01, March 20, 2020
- Proclamation of Local Emergency No. 2020-01, March 20, 2020
- Opened Joint Unified Incident Command Structure (IC) to coordinate the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our multi-agency response includes leadership from state, federal, and local organizations, March 26, 2020.

## **SUMMARY OF LASSEN COUNTY RECOVERY PLAN**

### **Phase One**

#### **I. Individual Actions**

We ask that each resident of Lassen County make informed decisions and take the necessary steps to keep yourself and your family healthy throughout the duration of this pandemic including:

- **Anyone who is feeling ill should stay home**

- **Continue social distancing** – When in public, maximize physical distance from others (at least six feet).
- **Maintain good hygiene practices** – Washing hands, use hand sanitizer, cleaning frequently touched surfaces, covering coughs & sneezes, consider wearing a face mask in public.
- **Social Settings** – Limit social gatherings to 10 people or less.
- **Vulnerable (high risk) individuals** – Our Plan calls for high risk individuals to stay at home. Households with vulnerable members should be aware that other members of the household may increase risk of transmission if resuming normal activities. Precautions should be taken to protect the vulnerable household members.
- **Non-essential travel is discouraged at this time.**
- **Resources:**
  - Lassen County Public Health, (530) 251-8183
  - COVID-19 Call Center, (530) 251-8100
  - [www.LassenCares.org](http://www.LassenCares.org)
  - LassenCares Facebook Page

## II. Work and Business

- **We are asking that businesses provide appropriate physical distancing measures, and ensure sick employees do not come to work. Steps may include:**
  - Meeting rooms, break rooms and other common areas should be limited in capacity to provide physical distancing between employees and customers.
  - If you are a medium to large employer, return employees back to work in phases, rather than all at once. This will maintain physical distancing in the workplace.
  - Protection and accommodations should be provided to employees who are high risk for COVID-19.
  - Clean frequently touched surfaces.
  - Ensure sick employees remain at home or go home immediately if they become ill at work.
- **Owners and operators of businesses that have close contact services such as salons, barbers, bars, gyms, and offices are encouraged to limit the number of staff and clients in the building at any given time. Steps may include:**
  - Social Distancing
    - Optimally less than 10 people in a small store or office. Social distancing should be maintained as much as possible to limit the number of exposures.

- For example a salon has 10 chairs or booths, consider opening only 5 at one time and seating clients at every other chair/booth to allow for physical distancing.
  - Provide as many services as feasible with limited contact for example:
    - Online orders with in store pickup
    - Limiting number of clients in a lobby or waiting area
    - Staggering appointments
  - Clean frequently touched surfaces.
- **Restaurant dine in options.**
  - Tables must allow for appropriate physical distancing.
  - Take out options should continue to be promoted.
  - Frequent cleaning and sanitation must occur.
- **Outdoor recreation**
  - Physical distancing should be promoted and maintained.
  - If equipment is provided it should be cleaned after use (example: golf course providing golf clubs or golf carts)
- **Resources:**
  - Lassen County Environmental Health, (530) 251-8528
  - [www.LassenCares.org](http://www.LassenCares.org)
  - LassenCares Facebook Page

### III. Mitigation, Evaluation, and Monitoring

- **Mass COVID-19 Testing**
  - Expand testing as testing capacity increases to be able provide testing to the lowest priority including community-based testing of all low-risk symptomatic persons and surveillance testing of asymptomatic persons.
  - Support a state-provided COVID-19 testing facility in Lassen County based on the determination that Lassen County is a “testing desert” with no testing facilities located within 60 miles of City of Susanville.
- **The local officials will evaluate the COVID-19 recovery response and modify the plan as follows:**
  - Local healthcare facilities will continue to provide a minimum of at least weekly situation reports
  - Local and regional testing will be monitored

- Case investigation and contact tracing will be conducted as needed
  - Coroner reports will be reviewed
- **If Lassen County receives a positive COVID-19 case, targeted mitigation measures will be initiated as determined by the EOC. This could include one or more of the following:**
  - Increased monitoring of exposed contacts
  - Stricter quarantine of contacts
  - Increased recommended use of PPE
  - Recommended reduction in worksite staff
  - Sanitation of a specific facility
  - Closure or partial closure of a specific facility
  - Recommended reduction in social gatherings
  - Return to takeout only options for restaurants
  - Cancellation of elective procedures
- **If the increase in spread of illness is significant, the public will be asked to return to stricter protocols.**

### **Phase Two**

- **If Lassen County maintains zero positive COVID-19 cases or no significant increase in cases with no negative impact on capacity response, consider a further decrease in the recommended restrictions.**
- **If Lassen County receives a positive COVID-19 case or a significant increase in cases occur, targeted mitigation measures will be employed as determined by the EOC as stated above under Phase One.**
- **If the increase in spread of illness is significant, the public will be asked to return to stricter protocols.**

### **Phase Three**

- **If Lassen County maintains zero positive COVID-19 cases or no significant increase in cases with no negative impact on capacity response, consider a further decrease in the recommended restrictions.**
- **If Lassen County maintains zero positive COVID-19 cases or no significant increase in cases with no negative impact on capacity response, consider a**

further decrease in the recommended restrictions as stated above under Phase One.

- If the increase in spread of illness is significant, the public will be asked to return to stricter protocols.

#### FINAL PHASE

- Transition to public health surveillance monitoring of infectious diseases, including prevalence and mitigation activities for influenza and coronavirus type illnesses.

In closing, I am pleased to report that our region including Alpine, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Sierra, and Siskiyou counties have collectively less than five confirmed cases. I believe that the success we have had in Lassen County is because we followed the social distancing guidelines provided by the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I would like to commend the citizens of Lassen County for their diligence in keeping our health and safety first and foremost.

Given that Lassen County has zero positive cases over the past eight weeks, and our high level of COVID-19 emergency preparedness, I am respectfully requesting your approval of our comprehensive recovery plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Korver MD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kenneth Korver, MD  
Lassen County Health Officer

#### Attachments

- Lassen COVID-19 Incident Action Plan
- Lassen County Recovery Plan