



Sierra County Health and Human Services

Social Services

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Vickie Clark- Director

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May 1, 2020

Dear Sierra County Business Owner,

Sierra County Public Health Department hopes this letter finds you and your family in good health during these unprecedented times. It has been six long weeks since we were put under Shelter at Home orders. We have all made sacrifices and changed our lives to save lives from a virus – the Coronavirus - COVID-19. Everyone has done a good job and the efforts are paying off. California’s curve of positive cases has flattened and we here in Sierra County are feeling good about holding to zero cases.

As you are aware, there are many discussions happening at the State and Federal level regarding the safe reopening of businesses, schools, traveling, recreation, events and gatherings. Public Health has been following all the guidance from these government entities to assess and support reopening business and activities in our communities as well. The opportune words are, “when it is safe to do so.”

Governor Newsom and California Department of Public Health have presented the state with a thoughtful phased in approach, which we plan to model. The phased approach is necessary to continue to limit the spread of COVID-19 until we have wide spread immunity. This plan allows for targeted mitigation measures, as well as regression to a prior phase should we experience positive community transmission of the virus.

We are looking at four stages that will move us from where we are now, at Stage 1, to Stage 4 over the course of the upcoming months. The stages will move sequentially decreasing the restrictions and increasing the freedoms. The stages are defined from essential and then from lowest risk to highest risk businesses, activities and gatherings. A total reopening occurs in Stage 4. We have developed a preliminary visual to show you the “road map”.

It’s time to figure out where your business, organization or events land on the road map so you can start planning for getting back to work. The type of business or activity informs the extent of the planning needed for your operation. We apologize if this letter is duplication or possibly not applicable for you. We felt it better to err on the side of too much communication than not enough. You need a plan and Public Health is here to guide you through the process. We understand strategies may be unique to your business in order to serve your customers. If you do not serve customers in person, your planning will likely be minimal. There are resources to help you develop your plan that will keep your employees, participants and customers safe and well.

Check out the Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 at –

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM26911

Reopening strategies will most likely include:

- Physical distancing (at least 6 feet between each person)
- Sanitization and disinfectant procedures
- All employees and patrons to wear cloth face coverings when physical distancing is not feasible
Reference the Sierra County Health Officer Order requiring Face Coverings issued May 1, 2020
<http://sierracounty.ca.gov/facecoverorder>
- Adjusting business hours

We have provided you with the attached template (Sierra County COVID19 Reopening MOU) to be completed and submitted to Sierra County Public Health. Please review the attached charts for where your business or activity falls in the preliminary stages. If your activity falls within Stage 2, please submit your Reopening MOU by May 15, 2020. If your activity falls within Stage 3 your completed Reopening MOU is not needed until June 1, 2020

You can email your plan to: COVID19@sierracounty.ca.gov

Mail to: PO Box 7, Loyalton, CA 96118

Drop off: 202 Front Street, Loyalton, CA 96118 or 22 Maiden Lane, Downieville, CA 65636

Dr. Sutton-Pado, Sierra County Public Health Officer, will need to sign off and approve your plan so that you can get back to business. We are excited for the reopening of local businesses and support you in your efforts to keep community members and yourself safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please email COVID19@sierracounty.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Sierra County Public Health Department