

MONO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Public Health Officer Order:
Ordering the Temporary Closure of Mammoth Unified
School District's Mammoth High School and Mammoth
Middle School for In-Person Instruction

P.O. BOX 3329, MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546 PHONE (760) 924-1830 • FAX (760) 924-1831

September 20, 2021

WHEREAS, a state of emergency has been declared by the State of California, and local emergencies have been declared in Mono County in response to the virus COVID-19 (Coronavirus); and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California for the 2021-22 school year, on the foundational principle that all students must have access to safe and full in-person instruction and to as much instructional time as possible; and

WHEREAS, despite its adherence to the CDPH guidelines, including the CDPH directives for modified quarantine, which allows for students meeting certain criteria to remain on campus under modified quarantine procedures, Mammoth Unified School District ("District") has, at present, placed approximately 250 students, administrative staff, and teachers in isolation or modified quarantine; and

WHEREAS, at present, of the approximately 33 administrative staff and teachers at the District, 18 are subject to quarantine, resulting in a drastic shortage of staff available to ensure compliance with CDPH guidelines including modified quarantine procedures, which require close monitoring for symptoms and twice-weekly testing; provide in-person instruction to students whose teachers are in isolation; and to adequately supervise students on campus to ensure their overall safety; and

WHEREAS, The District is initiating closure pursuant to an emergency as that term is defined in Education Code section 41422 due to the shortage of staff available to ensure compliance with CDPH guidelines and safety on campus for all students and in order to provide uninterrupted academic instruction through distance learning;

NOW, THEREFORE, effective beginning Monday, **September 20, 2021**, under the authority of California Health and Safety Code sections 101040, 101085 and 120175 and Title 17 California Code of Regulations, Section 2501; Article XI of the California Constitution; California Government Code Sections 8634, and 8665, the Mono County Health Officer:

HEREBY ORDERS as follows:

1. The recitals above are incorporated herein as Findings.

2. Mammoth Unified School District's **Mammoth High School** and **Mammoth Middle School** shall immediately close for in-person instruction and remain closed until **October 4, 2021**.
3. Mammoth High School and Mammoth Middle School shall reopen for in-person instruction on **October 4, 2021**.
4. This Closure does not apply to Mammoth Elementary School.
5. The Mono County Public Health Officer, in concert with school administration, shall continue to monitor and reevaluate the situation at Mammoth Elementary School every 24 hours.

This Order shall take effect beginning on Monday, September 20, 2021 and shall remain in effect until October 4, 2021.

General Provisions

1. This Order is issued as a result of the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 disease, also known as "novel coronavirus," which has infected at least 197 million individuals worldwide in 220 countries and is implicated in over 4.2 million worldwide deaths, including 1271 cases and five deaths in Mono County.
2. This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 both within the County of Mono and worldwide, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approach to slow transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, as well as best practices as currently known and available to protect the public from the risk of spread of or exposure to COVID-19. The current situation at Mammoth Unified School District, with the high volume of students and staff who have been exposed to COVID-19, and the lack of staff now available to ensure compliance with CDPH protocol for safe schools, including the testing and monitoring of individuals under modified quarantine, make it unsafe for the school to remain open at this time.
3. This Order is intended to reduce the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19 in the schools, thereby slowing the spread of COVID-19 in the community and the County as well as, on a larger scale, to communities worldwide. As the presence of individuals increases, the difficulty and magnitude of tracing individuals who may have been exposed to a case rises exponentially.
4. This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the: March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom; the March 15, 2020 Declaration of Local Health Emergency based on an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of novel COVID-19 in Mono County; the March 17, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mono proclaiming the existence of a Local Emergency in the County of Mono regarding COVID-19 and ratifying and extending the Declaration of Local Health Emergency due to COVID-19; all current applicable guidance issued by the California Department of Public

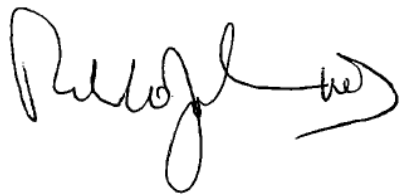
Health, including but not limited to the September 1, 2021 California Public Health Guidance for schools.

5. This Order is made in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, including but not limited to: Health and Safety Code sections 101030, et seq.; Health and Safety Code sections 120100, et seq.; and Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations section 2501.

6. To the extent necessary, pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all Chiefs of Police in the County ensure compliance with and enforcement of this Order.

7. This Order is made because of the propensity of the virus to spread person-to-person.

8. Copies of this Order shall promptly be posted on the County of Mono's Public Health Department's website (monohealth.com) and provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

_____ Date: Sep 17, 2021

Richard Johnson, MD, MPH
Acting Local Health Officer
for Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes