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County Manager's Office Humboldt County, Nevada



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General Distribution

All media outlets,
Subject: Emergency Declaration

HUMBOLDT COUNTY, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 19, 2020

The Humboldt County Board of Commissioners announced on March 19, 2020, the immediate implementation of proactive measures to safeguard the citizens of Humboldt County against health threats related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). These measures will remain in place until further notice.

Following Governor Sisolak's announcement of a State of Emergency, followed by action on March 15th to temporarily close all Nevada schools and certain State Offices, and with confirmed cases of Coronavirus in the State (including one related death), Humboldt County is taking the following steps to immediately suppress spread of the infectious Coronavirus into and within Humboldt County.

It is important to understand that this declaration is being done to insure that the county is prepared for an outbreak of the virus in Humboldt County, including having access to state and federal funding to support any efforts that may be required to protect our citizens. Currently, there is not a confirmed case in the county.

Due to this rapidly evolving threat, effective immediately, the following Humboldt County facilities will be closed until further notice: Humboldt County Library including McDermitt and Denio branches and the Humboldt County Pleasant Senior Center. (The Senior Center has provided meals to seniors that are normally

served by providing 20-days of frozen meals and a bag of fresh vegetables and fruits.

All other county offices will remain open, however, please contact the specific office to ascertain if your business can be handled online or by phone. If your transaction must be handled in person and cannot wait, please set up an appointment to complete the transaction in person.

The Board of Humboldt County Commissioners will continue to meet at its regularly scheduled times to conduct essential business only. All non-critical meetings of other boards and committees within the county will be temporarily suspended or curtailed. In addition, all non-essential travel by all county employees is suspended until further notice.

In order to limit spread of this pandemic, the Humboldt County Board of Commissioners encourages the citizens of Humboldt County to remain home if you are sick, limit travel, avoid social interactions, and practice public health measures and recommendations, particularly related to hygiene.

The Humboldt County Board of Commissioners will continue to work with State agencies, Humboldt General Hospital, Humboldt County and City of Winnemucca law enforcement agencies, Humboldt County and City of Winnemucca officials, Humboldt General Hospital and the Nevada Association of Counties to determine the best course of action to protect the citizens of Humboldt County.

For more information, please call 775-623-6300.

Members of the Humboldt County Board of Commissioners include: County Commission Chairman Ken Tipton, Commissioner Jim French, Commissioner Marlene Brissenden, Commissioner Ron Cerri and Commissioner Mike Bell.

Respectfully,

Dave Mendiola
County Manager

See current information on access to county offices below.

Humboldt County offices remain open for business. However, citizens should attempt to do their county business online, as much as possible, and limit onsite activity to critical and/or time-sensitive issues. The following is a listing of county offices and their current schedule and plans to handle business until further notice.

Assessor

The assessor's office is mostly conducting business as usual. We continue to work through making our daily changes to the tax roll in appropriate areas. Please call the office for an appointment and attempt to do all transactions online.

Treasurer's Office

In response to the concerns regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and in compliance with Governor Sisolak's order, the Humboldt County Treasurer's office is encouraging the public to conduct business remotely, either electronically or by telephone, in order to comply with social distancing guidelines.

The Treasurer's office staff will be available by phone and/or email during regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm) to assist with any questions or concerns. We will continue to process payments made through regular mail or online services. Property tax information is available on our website at www.hcnv.us.

Please consider the following options for conducting business with the Treasurer's office:

- Make payments through your bank's online bill pay service or pay online at <https://www.hcnv.us/207/Treasurer>.
- Mail payments to 50 W. Fifth St., Winnemucca, NV 89445
- Call (775) 623-6444 or email treasurer@hcnv.us if you have questions

The 2020 Delinquent Tax Auction scheduled for Friday, April 17th will be postponed until further notice.

Our priority is the health and well-being of the public and our employees, and appreciate your help and cooperation as we all navigate this unprecedented time.

Human Services

The Human Services Open House scheduled for Thursday, March 26, has been canceled. Coordinator Niki Linn will reschedule when appropriate.

Cooperative Extension Office

Cooperative Extension Office events, meetings, classes, workshops etc. have been canceled through April 13. For more information, please call (775) 623-6304.

Winnemucca Indoor Events Center and Convention Center:

The Winnemucca Convention Center and Winnemucca Events Complex are cancelling all events and activities, except for the Food Bank Mobile Harvest on March 23d at the Event Center, until at least March 16th. Staff will still be working, but we will be locking down public access to the facilities. We will post signage with phone numbers on how to reach staff if necessary. At the Events Complex, we will be setting up a designated set of stalls for those traveling with horses that they may use on a honor payment system. Staff interaction with these people will be extremely limited if at all. WCVA staff is

working on gathering information to provide to travelers about what services and amenities are available in Winnemucca.

Humboldt County Library

UPDATED The Humboldt County Library, Humboldt Bookmobile, and Denio and McDermitt Branch Libraries will all be closed to the public beginning March 18 until further notice. Services such as curbside pick-up of library materials, Facebook Live story-times, Online Databases, and ebooks through Overdrive will be available. The Humboldt County Library and Humboldt Bookmobile may be reached by phone at (775) 623-6388; by email (library@hcnv.us) or via Facebook . The Denio Branch Library may be reached by phone at (775) 941-0330, and the McDermitt Branch Library may be reached by phone at (775) 532-8014.

District Attorney

The Humboldt County District Attorney's Office and the Child Support Enforcement Office are operating with normal business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. However due to COVID-19 risk mitigation efforts, these offices are trying to avoid or limit personal contact by locking the exterior doors to the public. Therefore, the offices request that all business be conducted by telephone, mail, facsimile or email. All appointments or meetings will be conducted by telephone. Only if these alternatives are insufficient, other arrangements will be made. Before coming to the offices, please call first: District Attorney's Office at (775) 623-6360 or Child Support Office at (775) 623-6362.

6th Judicial District Court

6th Judicial District Court: Effective March 16, 2020, all currently scheduled non-essential District Court hearings are ordered to be conducted by video or telephonic means; decided on the papers; or rescheduled unless otherwise directed by the District Court Judge. At this time, essential case types and hearings will continue to be heard through in-person appearances, although appearance by alternative means under Nevada Supreme Court Rule Part IX is encouraged when possible. Essential case types and hearings include the following:

1. In-custody criminal sentencings, bail motions, and probation revocation hearings until arrangements can be made to hear these matters by alternative means;
2. Criminal arraignments;
3. Civil commitment cases;
4. Guardianship matters except for compliance related hearings which include annual accountings. Given the vulnerability of the guardianship populations, all protected persons shall appear by alternative means;
5. Domestic temporary or extended protection orders;
6. Juvenile delinquency matters;
7. Abuse and neglect preliminary protective hearings;
8. High-risk protective orders;
9. Civil temporary restraining orders and preliminary/permanent injunctive relief hearings.
10. Probate petitions for orders of cremation.
11. Other than jury trials, case-by-case exceptions may be ordered at the discretion of a District Court Judge.

All jury trials, civil and criminal, scheduled in District Court for the next 30 days will be suspended and will be rescheduled as the court calendar allows. No summonsed prospective jurors are to appear. Any currently ongoing jury trial will finish.

This order shall operate to stay trial in civil cases for purposes of NRCP 41(e). The time period of any continuance entered as a result of this order shall be excluded under for purposes of calculating speedy trial under NRS 178.556(1) and NRS 174.511 as the Court finds the that ends of justice served by taking that action outweigh the interests of the parties and the public in a speedy trial. Absent further order of the Court or any individual judge, the period of exclusion shall be from March 16, 2020 through April 17, 2020. The Court may extend the period of exclusion as circumstances warrant.

Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by District Court.

If a person is unable to appear in court because of the restrictions above, the person may call 775.623.6371 to speak to a staff member for assistance in rescheduling their court appearance, arranging for appearance by alternative means or provide other information based on the circumstances of the appearance.

Justice Court, Humboldt County:

Effective today, March 16, 2020, this Court will accept court filings and continue to operate managing cases within the parameters set forth in this order.

1. In-custody transport of defendants will be suspended for 45 days. In-custody arraignments, pre-trials, preliminary hearings, and trials will be accommodated through telecommunication.
2. All arraignments (traffic and criminal) currently scheduled between March 16, 2020, through May 1, 2020, will be continued for a period of 60 days.
3. Defendants arrested on traffic offenses and/or warrants subject to release under the current pretrial procedures will be given a return date of 45 days.
4. Out-of-custody trials (traffic and criminal) scheduled between March 16, 2020, through May 1, 2020, will be continued for a period of 45 days.
5. Domestic Battery classes currently held at the Court shall be cancelled for 30 days.
6. Any other hearings scheduled between March 16, 2020, through May 1, 2020, may be continued for 45 days upon request by calling the phone number below.
7. All small claims court hearings scheduled between March 16, 2020, through May 1, 2020, are continued for 45 days.
8. All applications for evictions and/or temporary protection orders are unaffected by this order.
9. All new citations issued by HCSO, WPD, NHP, and NDOW, shall set the scheduled court date an additional 45 days in advance.
10. In order to reduce social contact, this Court encourages use of electronic communications for the resolution of cases, pre-trials, and/or negotiations.

To assist all persons unable to enter the court facility because of exposure or illness they may call 775-623-6059 to speak to a representative for assistance in rescheduling their court appearance, arranging for appearance by alternate means or provide other information based on the circumstances of the appearance.

All cases shall be reviewed in light of their own circumstances and may deviate from the above guidelines.

This Order shall be reviewed no later than every 30 days and shall continue until modified and/or rescinded by a subsequent order.

Juvenile Services

All Juvenile Services groups have been canceled for the next two weeks, at which time they will re-evaluate. Please note:

Multi-Dimensional Family Treatment has been postponed through April 14, 2020.

All individuals who enter the Juvenile Services building are screened for fever and must complete a screening form.

Families are asked to call Juvenile Services to address issues over the phone, except in the case of emergency.

With regard to adult drug testing, only two individuals may enter the building at one time. Youth drug testing has not changed.

Home visits are canceled, except in the case of emergency.

Adult Detention Facility

Regarding updates for Covid-19 at the detention center. We have implemented the following protocols. The front lobby is closed to the public. All visitation in the lobby is canceled until further notice. All group services have further been suspended until further notice. No one is authorized to be in the facility unless it is for official business only. Proper sanitation and screening is being performed multiple times daily.

Visitation can be done through “secures” by remote location. To schedule an offsite video visitation, use the link below and follow the instructions <https://securustech.net/video-products/video-visitation/index.html>

Building Inspector

County building inspections will continue. However, customers are asked to do as much online as possible. Handouts and permits are on the Humboldt County website. The forms can be downloaded and emailed to karen.johnson@hcnv.us. The office can take credit card payments. If customers have questions, please contact Karen Johnson at (775) 623-6322 to schedule an appointment.

Public Works

Humboldt County Public Works is open for business; please call (775) 623-6416. Typically, personnel have limited involvement with the general public and will continue to maintain county roads and infrastructure. The department is ready to do anything necessary to help during this time.

Recorder’s Office

Effective immediately, the Humboldt County Recorder’s Office will be by appointment only. The office will continue to record electronically or by mail. Requests for copies, marriage certificates and small research projects will be fulfilled by phone or email. Please direct all questions and request to (775) 623-6412.

Planning

Planning will operate as normal, however, you are requested to contact the office at (775) 623-6392 to discuss any needs and Betty will attempt to handle your request via online, fax or telephonically. Notary services will not be available until further notice.

County Clerk's Office

The Humboldt County Clerk's Office is currently open regular business hours; staff are conducting all duties as required. Customers who require service should contact the office first at (775) 623-6343 to determine if the request is something that can be addressed over the phone, by e-mail or fax. Public notary services may be restricted, so please contact the office to determine availability. Staff are aware that county business licenses and fictitious firm name renewals are currently due. Those with concerns regarding their ability to submit the necessary paperwork in a timely matter should call the office for assistance. Questions and concerns also may be addressed via email at County.Clerk@hcnv.us.

McDermitt Water/Sewer – Golconda Water – Paradise Valley Sewer

For Humboldt County-maintained wastewater/sewer systems, please note: With the supply of toilet paper being unpredictable at local stores, Humboldt County would like to remind residents in McDermitt and Paradise Valley to "Watch what you flush." The county's wastewater systems are designed for human waste and toilet paper only. Items such as paper towels, tissues, rags and wet wipes/baby wipes -- even if they say "flushable" -- can cause issues in the wastewater system as well as homeowners' portions of the system. These items do not break down like toilet paper and can cause slower flows and backups within the system.

Pleasant Senior Center

The Pleasant Senior Center will be closed until April 6, 2020. Staff delivered meals for 20 days to all homebound clients so they will have dinners for the full 20 days that the senior center is closed. The center is following guidelines from the Aging and Disability Services Division and will re-assess continued closure after April 6, if necessary. Staff are taking time to deep clean and sanitize everything in the center during this closure, but urge clients to monitor and listen to information and continue to follow social isolation protocol. Please visit the Senior Center's Facebook page for updated information.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee will meet via technology rather than in person.