

Date: March 20, 2020

TO: Times Standard
KMUD Radio
North Coast Journal
Lost Coast Outpost

KIEM News Channel 3
KINS Radio
Fortuna Business Improvement District
Fortuna Chamber of Commerce

From: City of Fortuna



**CITY OF FORTUNA PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

CITY OF FORTUNA COVID-19

Fortuna, CA –

The City of Fortuna is monitoring COVID-19 and is working with, and following all recommended guidelines from, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the California Department of Public Health and the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services. The spread of COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving situation, and the City is dedicated to keeping the community safe and informed during this unprecedented time. Updated information will be provided on the City Website as it becomes available.

The State of California issued a Shelter in Place Order on March 19, 2020. In the strictest response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States so far, the Governor has ordered all California residents to shelter in place until further notice. This order is to ensure the maximum number of people self-isolate to the greatest extent possible, while allowing essential services to continue, in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. California residents may leave their homes to seek or provide essential services such as obtaining medical care or supplies, grocery shopping, refilling prescriptions and caring for an ill family member. Those who leave their homes are expected to maintain social distancing guidelines and keep a distance of 6 feet away from those not in their household.

For answers to frequently asked questions about essential services pertaining to this order, please click [here](#). **Click [here](#) to see the order in its entirety.** Failure to comply with any provisions of this order constitutes an imminent threat to public health. The order carries the force of law and breaking it could result in a misdemeanor.

Hours before the State issued order, the **Humboldt County Department of Public Health put an order in place that directs all individuals living in Humboldt County to shelter in place beginning midnight,**

Friday, March 20. Given that the San Francisco Bay Area is experiencing outbreaks of COVID-19 with extensive community spread, Humboldt County recognizes the imminent threat presented to the public's health. For more information from the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services, please click [here](#). Updated information will be provided as it becomes available.

As of 2:00 PM today, the City Manager of the City of Fortuna will be declaring the existence of a local emergency. The purpose of declaring a local emergency is to allow the Emergency Services Director (the City Manager) to better control and direct efforts of the City to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak emergency and to be eligible for reimbursement for State and Federal disaster funding. The City Council will be required to ratify this declaration at its next regularly scheduled meeting on April 6th or it will expire.

Additional useful information can be found at the following locations:

- **California State Health & Emergency officials have issued new guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in bars, restaurants, food trucks and farmers' markets.** Please click [here](#) to read the updated guidelines.
- **There are no currently confirmed or reported cases of COVID-19 in Fortuna.** The City of Fortuna is actively working with Humboldt County health agencies to protect our community, prepare for local cases and assist in maintaining the health and safety of our region.
- **The Humboldt County Joint Information Center will now provide daily updates about local COVID-19 testing capabilities and results.** The information will be updated Monday through Saturday and will be posted [here](#).
- **St. Joseph Health has developed an online Coronavirus Assessment Tool that can help you evaluate risk factors for contracting the illness.** Click [here](#) to access the tool.
- **The overall risk of exposure to Humboldt County residents and visitors, including Fortuna, is expected to rise as community spread of the virus has reached the State of California.** Community spread means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected. The City will continue to closely monitor the situation and is prepared to implement protocols as risk of COVID-19 exposure increases in Fortuna and greater Humboldt County. **Please click [here](#) for the latest local updates from the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services or to sign up to receive Humboldt County Health Alerts.** Community members may also contact the County directly by emailing covidinfo@co.humboldt.ca.us or calling 707-441-5000. For medical advice or questions regarding COVID-19 testing, contact Humboldt County Public Health by emailing hhsphb@co.humboldt.ca.us or calling 707-445-6200.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Please confirm receipt of this Press Release.