



For immediate release:



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From: Plumas County Public Health Public Information Officer Lori Beatley
Seneca Healthcare District, Plumas District Hospital, Eastern Plumas Health Care

Plumas County Healthcare Capability Response to COVID-19

Plumas County healthcare facilities; Seneca Healthcare District, Plumas District Hospital and Eastern Plumas Health Care have a history of mutual cooperation prior to COVID-19. This pandemic has solidified the collaboration between the healthcare facilities and Plumas County Public Health Agency. PCPHA and all three healthcare facilities have been working diligently to ensure the highest level of care to the community. Seneca Healthcare District, Plumas District Hospital and Eastern Plumas Health Care with the assistance of Plumas County Public Health are preparing to care for more patients than we could handle with our current capacity. Each facility has a surge plan specific for COVID-19 which can be implemented to address an influx of patients.

The first step in surge planning, which is already underway, is to decompress the current health care system. Those activities include:

- Ordering Plumas County residents—to stay home to reduce the spread of the virus countywide, lessen infection among vulnerable populations, and diminish the demand on hospitals and the health system.
- Restricting visitors to hospitals and skilled nursing facilities to protect the health of vulnerable populations and reduce their risk of exposure, complications and extended or initial hospitalization.
- Cancelling or postponing of elective surgeries and routine medical appointments, moving services to telephone and video conference as appropriate to reduce the volume of patients in the health system.

The second step is to build capacity in the hospital system to care for more patients. Those activities include:

- Expand access to regular hospital beds.
- Ability to expand county-wide access to patient care beds.
- Ability to transport patients to higher level of care to Renown Regional Medical Center, UC Davis and Enloe Medical Center.
- Some hospitals have access to critical care telemedicine through UC Davis.
- Increasing the amount of supplies and equipment, including personal protective equipment (PPE), through advocacy at the state and federal level.

While it's not possible to predict the exact timing or size of the surge, its severity will be diminished if Plumas County strictly adheres to the Governor's Executive Order to stay home. This is the single most important action that individuals can take to save lives, along with frequent hand washing

Calling first to a healthcare facility is important and allows them to take the necessary precautions to prepare for your visit, so if you or a loved one is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 please call your primary care provider so that initial screening can be done.

If you have any questions please contact the Plumas County COVID-19 informational phone line 530-283-6400 or send an e-mail to COVID19@countyofplumas.com or visit our website at www.plumascounty.us