

# NEWS RELEASE



**Chief Administrative Office  
El Dorado County**

## **EL DORADO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REACTIVATES COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER TO HANDLE INCREASED COVID-19**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**(PLACERVILLE, CA)** – El Dorado County Sheriff's Office today announced the reactivation of the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in response to the increase in COVID-19 cases and its impact on County hospitals. It includes personnel from the Sheriff's Office, County Public Health department and the County's Chief Administrative Office.

"It's clear from the substantial increase of positive cases, the more serious impact on our County's hospital and Intensive Care Units and the trickle-down effect to our overall health care system and community wellbeing that it's time to provide as many resources as possible to address this public health emergency," said Sheriff John D'Agostini.

The EOC originally opened to address the pandemic in March and closed in June as the impact of the virus was less severe. Since the closure, the County's Public Health department has managed the County's response.

"Our Public Health employees have done a very good job responding to this unprecedented and frequently changing public health landscape, but we have limited resources to successfully address what many are calling the most serious time in the pandemic as we move into the holiday season and winter," said the County's Chief Administrative Officer, Don Ashton. "We're grateful for the added expertise and resources the EOC brings to an incident like this," he added.

The EOC brings together in one location staff to lead the planning, operations, logistics, technical and public information aspects of an emergency in a structure that ensures the most pressing needs are met, and that limited resources are used without duplication or waste.

"Our community needs to do all it can to keep our County safe, open and as normal as possible in the face of this virus, especially as we see some segments of our health care and economy really struggling and expect more to come," said D'Agostini. "The Sheriff's Office unequivocally supports the message that individual responsibility is the key to keeping this virus under control and activating the EOC will help our community stay safe. The Sheriff's Office will continue to focus on education rather than enforcement," he added.