



NEVADA COUNTY
Public Health

NEVADA COUNTY STAY-AT-HOME ORDER FAQs

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GENERAL QUESTIONS

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

This is a critical intervention to reduce harm from the spread of the coronavirus in our community. This is a mandatory order enforceable by a fine or jail.

The health officers across northern California jurisdictions and at the state level are responding to quickly mounting cases and serious illnesses across the region.

Now is the time to do everything we can to prevent the situation from getting much worse in a matter of days or weeks. Every hour counts. We need and appreciate the cooperation of everyone who lives and works in Nevada County to act immediately.

While this Stay-at-Home Order may feel alarming, it is a necessary step to prevent a worsening situation. We have already seen the impact of this order in our communities. The patterns of the virus around the world, and in our own state, tell us that moving right now to maximize social distancing and restrict people gathering is the best way to fight the virus and save lives.

We know that there are a lot of questions and concerns. This is a major change being taken to protect public health. Together, we will get through this, and our community's health will be protected.

HOW LONG WILL WE STAY HOME?

The Stay-at-Home Order issued from the California State Health Officer went into effect on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 12:01 am. On Tuesday, April 15, 2020 Nevada County's Public Health Officer issued a local Stay-at-Home Order. The local Order was updated on April 27. The two orders are very similar, but having a local order allows Nevada County to provide clarifications to questions from the public regarding the state's Order. This Order is in effect until May 15 at this time, but can be extended.

We want to be sure the Order is in place for only as long as necessary, and the Health Officer will be closely monitoring the situation every day in order to determine what adjustments make sense.

WHAT CAN I DO? WHAT'S OPEN?

Like the statewide Stay-at-Home Order, this new order requires Nevada County residents to stay at home except for essential needs such as a trip to the grocery store or essential work, and requires that people continue to maintain six feet of physical distancing when using shared outdoor spaces for activities like walking, running or biking.

These essential services will remain open:

- Essential City/County government services: law enforcement; fire stations; public health, clinics and healthcare operations; behavioral health; jails; courts (with limits the courts have adopted); garbage/sanitation; public transportation including Gold Country Stage, TART, and Gold Country Lift (use of public transportation is limited to essential

travel only); utilities (water, power, internet, telephone, and gas); animal control and humane officers, and city, town, and county offices (currently offering limited services, primarily by appointment, phone or email)

- Health care providers and caregivers (e.g., physicians, dentists (for urgent care only), psychologists, therapists, mid-level practitioners, nurses and assistants, infection control and quality assurance personnel, pharmacists, physical and occupational therapists and assistants, social workers, speech pathologists and diagnostic, therapeutic technicians and technologists, and family care providers)
- Hospital and laboratory personnel (including accounting, administrative, admitting and discharge, engineering, epidemiological, source plasma and blood donation, food service, housekeeping, medical records, information technology and operational technology, nutritionists, sanitarians, respiratory therapists, etc.)
- Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals
- Gas stations and auto-supply stores, auto repair
- Pharmacies
- Food: workers supporting retail sales of food and beverage products, including, but not limited to grocery stores, farmers' markets, food banks, convenience stores including liquor stores that sell food, carry-out, quick serve, to-go and delivery restaurants, farm and produce stands, and company cafeterias
- Hardware stores/plumbers/electricians and those who provide services necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences
- Veterinary hospitals, clinics and workers and pet supplies
- Media: Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services
- Banks and related financial institutions
- Community benefit organizations on a case-by-case basis
- Agriculture, including but not limited to food and beverage cultivation, including farming, ranching, forestry, livestock, and fishing
- Laundromats and laundry services
- Mortuary services, including funeral homes, crematoriums, and cemetery workers
- Fire mitigation activities
- Private security, private fire protection services and private EMS personnel
- Commercial retail stores, that supply essential sectors, including convenience stores, auto supplies and repair, hardware and home improvement, and home appliance retailers
- Workers such as plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safely, sanitation, construction

- material sources, and essential operation of construction sites and construction projects
- Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences
- Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes
- Businesses providing support for Information Technology
- Businesses related to communications
- Educational institutions-including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities - for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible, but excluding commercial bookstores
- Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children
- Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children
- Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted. To the extent possible, childcare facilities must operate under the following mandatory conditions:
 - Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer (“stable” means that the same 12 or fewer children are in the same group each day).
 - Children shall not change from one group to another.
 - If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other.
 - Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children

Other community-based government operations that are deemed essential although not listed in the CISA guidance:

- Security staff to maintain building access control and physical security measures
- Elections personnel
- Federal, State, and Local, Tribal, and Territorial employees who support Mission Essential Functions and communications networks
- Trade Officials (FTA negotiators; international data flow administrators)
- Weather forecasters
- Workers that maintain digital systems infrastructure supporting other critical government operations
- Workers at operations centers necessary to maintain other essential functions
- Workers who support necessary credentialing, vetting and licensing operations for transportation workers
- Customs workers who are critical to facilitating trade in support of the national emergency response supply chain
- Hotel workers where hotels are used for COVID-19 mitigation and containment measures

- Construction workers who support the construction, operation, inspection and maintenance of construction sites and construction projects (including housing construction) of non-cosmetic construction projects. Cosmetic construction projects are non-essential. Specific guidance for construction is available at the end of the April 27th [Nevada County Stay at Home Order](#).

WHAT'S CLOSED?

- Dine-in restaurants
- Bars
- Entertainment venues
- Gyms and fitness studios
- Activities with shared outdoor spaces that require that don't allow for social distancing, such as climbing walls, pools, and spas.
- Non-essential services

WHAT CAN'T I DO?

- You cannot engage in group activities in person with others.
- You cannot have dinner parties. You cannot invite friends over to your home to hang out.
- You cannot go to bars.
- You cannot go to a nail salon or get your hair cut by a stylist or barber.
- You cannot go shopping for non-essential goods.
- You cannot take unnecessary trips on public transport or in your car or motorbike.

WHERE DOES THIS APPLY?

This specific Order applies to all of Nevada County.

IS THIS MANDATORY OR IS IT JUST GUIDANCE?

It is mandatory. This Order is a legal Order issued under the authority of California law. You are required to comply, and it is a misdemeanor crime not to follow the order (although the intent is not for anyone to get into trouble).

It is critical for everyone to follow the Order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect themselves, their loved ones, friends, neighbors and the whole community.

All persons, businesses, and other entities are required to comply if they do not fall within the exemptions that are specified in the Order.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER?

You can be fined or imprisoned.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please call 211 (also available at 1-833-DIAL211) for all non-emergency and non-medical inquiries.

GENERAL PUBLIC

CAN I LEAVE HOME TO VISIT FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS IF THERE IS NO URGENT NEED?

No. For your safety as well as their safety, we need to help each other fight the spread of COVID-19 by staying at home.

WHAT IF I CAN'T GET OUT OF THE HOME? HOW CAN I GET SUPPLIES AND FOOD?

Please contact friends, family, or others you know who can provide support. They are permitted to pick up items for your essential needs, like food or medicine. Please also contact 211 (also available at 1-833-DIAL211) if you do not have family or friends who can drop off food and supplies, the operators are available 24/7 and can connect you to resources that may be able to assist.

HOW WILL I GET FOOD AND MEDICINES I NEED IF I MUST STAY IN MY HOME?

The Order specifically allows people to leave their home to buy food, purchase medicine, and purchase other necessary items. It also directs businesses selling those items to remain open and allows employees of those businesses to keep working and to ensure those businesses are operating.

CAN I GO FOR A WALK IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD?

Yes, but perform social distancing.

HOW DO I PROVE THAT I AM ALLOWED TO BE OUTSIDE?

The order contemplates that citizens will adhere to their civic duty and follow the Order for the greater good of the community and comply with the Order. At this time there is no requirement of proof that you are allowed to be outside your residence.

DO I HAVE TO REPORT TO JURY DUTY?

On March 24, 2020 the California Chief Justice issued a statewide order suspending all jury trials for 60 days and allowing courts to immediately adopt new rules to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. You are not likely to be called for jury service and should contact the Court before leaving home to ensure you are needed.

I HAVE A CITIZENSHIP TEST, CAN I STILL GO TAKE MY TEST?

Essential government functions are determined by the government entity that has jurisdiction. In this case, the federal government will determine whether citizenship tests will take place. Please contact the appropriate government agency administering the test to determine whether you should appear. If required to appear, practice strong hygiene and social distancing.

DO I HAVE TO PERFORM SOCIAL DISTANCING AT HOME WITH MY FAMILY?

No. If you live with other family memberO, you do not need to perform social distancing. If you are dropping off food for a family member whom you do not live with, you do need to perform social distancing.

CAN I STILL GO TO CHURCH, SYNAGOGUE, OR OTHER RELIGIOUS SERVICES?

No. Places of worship have not been exempted as essential activities under the order. Places of worship can still provide services listed in the Order as essential such as food banks and funerals.

CAN I STILL GET DELIVERIES FROM ONLINE STORES? CAN I ORDER FROM ONLINE STORES?

Yes. The mail and other delivery services to your home can continue to function, as can food delivery services.

Yes, you can place more orders from online stores. Businesses that deliver goods or services directly to residences are essential businesses that may continue to operate.

CAN I USE RIDE SHARE OR ON-DEMAND SERVICE OR A TAXI?

Yes, but only for essential travel.

Do your best to take social distancing precautions: cover your mouth and nose if you cough or sneeze, use hand sanitizer, and wash your hands before and after rides, etc.

I AM HOMELESS. HOW CAN I COMPLY WITH THE ORDER?

People who are experiencing homelessness are encouraged to try to stay with family or friends, identify housing options, or access emergency resources such as shelter. They can also call 211 for resources (also available at 1-833-DIAL211) located throughout Nevada County. 211 can provide clients with safety net services, including for homeless shelter referrals, based on an evaluation of each client's needs and situation.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I LEAVE NEVADA COUNTY TO GO ON A PLANNED VACATION?

The Order requires that you shelter in your place of residence. If you leave Nevada County for vacation or another reason that is not an essential purpose exempt under the Order, then you may not be permitted to return to your residence. Traveling runs the risk of spreading the virus to other areas and exposing new populations.

CAN I TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORT (GOLD COUNTRY STAGE, LIFT, TART)?

Yes, but only for essential travel.

Public transit will continue to operate. When using public transport, you should try maintain at least six feet, two to three steps away, from other riders.

You want to help everyone be able to practice social distancing. Therefore, it's important to only take public transportation for essential activities.

I BECOME ANXIOUS WHEN COOPED UP IN MY HOUSE. AM I ALLOWED TO GO ON A BIKE RIDE OR A HIKE?

Yes. Spending time outside improves mood and wellbeing, and is particularly beneficial to children. You can go for walks, ride your bike, and engage in other similar activities, but should maintain social distance (i.e. be more than six feet away from persons who are not part of your household) when on walks to avoid spread of the virus. Some cities have decided to close parks and playgrounds to slow the spread of COVID-19. Please respect those closures.

MY CHILD IS AWAY AT COLLEGE, CAN I GO PICK THEM UP AND RETURN HOME?

Yes.

MY WEDDING IS SCHEDULED NEXT WEEK AT MY CHURCH, CAN IT STILL GO ON?

No.

I DON'T HAVE A WASHER/DRYER IN MY HOME. CAN I LEAVE TO DO LAUNDRY?

Yes, you can go to a laundromat and other laundry service providers.

WHAT IF MY PLUMBING GETS STOPPED UP? HOW WILL I ACCESS THOSE SORTS OF SERVICES?

Call your plumber. This Order allows service providers like plumbers, electricians, and exterminators to keep working and providing their services to the public. To obtain supplies for a DIY solution, you can also visit your hardware store, which is allowed to stay open under this Order.

I LIVE IN A RV PARK, CAN I SHELTER AT HOME HERE?

Yes, however, only permanent residences may shelter at home at these locations. Traveling and using RV Park accommodations for non-permanent residents, is not permissible.

BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

WHAT ARE CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL JOBS AND ESSENTIAL WORKFORCE SECTORS?

Essential jobs are jobs which are deemed necessary to maintain continuity of operations for “critical infrastructure sectors,” as defined in CISA’s [Guidance on the Essential Infrastructure Workforce](#). Please reference that document for detail on particular sectors.

I WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT, CAN I CONTINUE TO GO TO WORK?

Government employees can continue to go to work if they are designated as essential employees by their employer. Each government is responsible for determining which of its workers are essential.

ARE SHORT-TERM RENTALS, HOTELS, MOTELS, CAMPGROUNDS OR OTHER SHELTERING SERVICES ALLOWED TO REMAIN OPEN OR OPERATE?

Short-term lodging facilities (including hotels, motels, condominiums, campgrounds and other units) can only remain open or operate which are a) used for COVID-19 mitigation and containment measures, and b) used to house workers performing functions that are essential to maintain the continuity of operations for critical infrastructure or are housing homeless individuals.

ARE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE OPERATING?

If they provide essential services as described in the Order, then yes they can and should continue providing those services. This would include non-profits operating food pantries, providing housing for homeless residents, and many, many other critical services.

I OWN A BUSINESS, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

If you don't fall within a specific exception, besides performing basic minimum functions, you need to close.

IS THERE RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESS?

There is effort on the federal level to grant relief to small businesses.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6201/text>

Additional resources:

- Find the latest business updates at www.mynevadacounty.com/Coronavirusbusinessresources
- Subscribe to the listserv for the latest information via Nevada County NotifyMe Network on the County's Facebook group, "Collaborative Resources for Nevada County Businesses." [updated April 20, 2020]

WHAT IF I WORK IN A DIFFERENT COUNTY OR STATE THAT IS NOT IMPLEMENTING THIS TYPE OF ORDER?

Travel to and from Nevada County is allowed for purposes of performing essential life functions. If you work in a county that is not implementing similar restrictions and are required to go for work, please practice strong hygiene and social distancing while at work and comply with the order while in Nevada County.

I AM A TAXI DRIVER, CAN I STILL WORK?

Yes, when providing rides for essential activities or providing rides to people performing essential government functions, essential infrastructure, or essential business.

IS CONSTRUCTION AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE?

Construction is allowed unless the construction work that is solely for cosmetic purposes, and provided that the construction workers carry out all work while in compliance with social distancing requirements, to the extent possible. This includes hand washing for at least 20 seconds or use of hand sanitizer, six feet of distance between individuals, not shaking hands,

sanitizing high-touch surfaces. Please see the guidance from the Health Officer for construction at the end of the April 27th [Nevada County Stay at Home Order](#). [link edited 4/27/20]

ARE REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS AND SERVICES ALLOWED TO CONTINUE?

Yes, real estate transactions and services can continue. However, public open houses are not allowed. Real estate agents and consumers need to work directly, and on a case-by-case basis, while adhering to social distancing guidelines.

ARE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES ALLOWED TO CONTINUE?

Environmental activities are only allowed to continue for public safety, fire prevention and other regulatory requirement efforts.

ARE GUN SHOPS OPEN?

Yes.

ARE CLEANING SERVICES CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND ALLOWED TO CONTINUE?

Cleaning services are only considered essential and allowed if they are for a location where no other means of cleaning is available, if it is for an essential sector, or if it is for a health and safety issue [updated 5/6/2020].

CHILDREN

WHAT ABOUT CHILDCARE AND PRESCHOOL?

- Must be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer each day
- No interchanging of groups of children
- More than one group is at a facility, then each group must be in a separate room (no mixing of groups)
- Each provider must stay with only one group and not change

ARE CHILD CUSTODY DROP-OFFS/EXCHANGES PERMISSIBLE, INCLUDING ACROSS COUNTIES?

Yes. Child custody arrangements can continue but individuals must adhere to social distancing guidelines.

CAN MY KIDS HAVE FRIENDS OVER?

No.

CAN I HOST A STUDY GROUP FOR MY CHILD'S CLASSMATES?

Not in-person, but consider digital options.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL

WHAT IF I NEED TO GET HEALTHCARE FROM MY MEDICAL PROVIDER?

You can still get your health needs addressed. Contact your health care provider to see if they are providing regular services. Some services, especially elective procedures, may be postponed or canceled.

If you are feeling sick, please first call your doctor, a nurse hotline, or an urgent care center.

Do not go to the emergency room of a hospital unless you are having an actual emergency.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M SICK AND NEED TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL OR A MEDICAL PROVIDER? HOW CAN I PROTECT OTHERS?

If possible, walk or drive yourself to the healthcare. If someone else in your home is sick and can drop you off, that is another good option. You want to try to avoid exposing others to any germs you have, especially if you are seriously ill.

If you have Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) like a surgical mask or N-95 mask, you can wear that to prevent exposing others. If you don't have that, you could use a temporary method such as wrapping a clean scarf around your mouth and nose to try to reduce droplets when you cough and sneeze.

Although this is not an approved method, it is something you can do to avoid exposing others. Just do the best you can.

CAN I GET MY PRESCRIPTIONS OR OTHER HEALTH CARE NEEDS? CAN I LEAVE HOME TO GO TO THE PHARMACY TO GET MY PRESCRIPTION FILLED?

Yes. Drug stores and other medical supply stores can operate. When possible, you should have the drug store deliver your prescription medicine to your home.

CAN I LEAVE HOME TO CARE FOR MY ELDERLY PARENTS OR FRIENDS WHO REQUIRE ASSISTANCE TO CARE FOR THEMSELVES? OR A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS DISABILITIES?

Yes. Be sure that you protect them and you by following social distancing guidelines such as washing hands before and after, using hand sanitizer, maintaining at least six feet of distance when possible, and coughing or sneezing into a tissue. Consider wearing a cloth face covering.

I RECEIVE MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT; CAN I STILL GO TO THEIR OFFICE?

Yes, however your provider may utilize video or phone formats instead. If treatment is in-person, perform good hygiene practices and social distancing.

IS ACUPUNCTURE, HERBALIST OR OTHER NON-WESTERN HEALTHCARE CONSIDERED MEDICAL SERVICE?

Yes.

WHAT ABOUT IF I NEED MEDICAL CARE?

Hospitals and medical facilities are exempted from the Order. You are free to go there and get medical attention. If you are ill, please see [What to Do If You Are Sick guidance](#) from the CDC for steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. At this time, it is recommended dental care should be for urgent and emergency issues only, not for preventive care. [updated 5/6/2020]

CAN I GO TO THE DENTIST?

Only if it is an urgent need. Non-urgent oral health care is not allowed under the Order. Currently, dentists should continue to be available for dental care that is “urgent and emergent” during this pandemic. The California Department of Public Health is anticipated to release more guidance for dentists soon. For further information, please see the [Statewide Notice](#) on the California Dental Association’s website. [added 5/6/2020]

ARE NA (NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS), AA (ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS), AND OTHER TYPES OF SUBSTANCE USE MEETINGS ALLOWED?

Because these are considered gatherings, in-person meetings are not currently allowed. The only exception is if the group is held in a treatment facility with a stable group of residents. If you participate in AA, NA, or other support groups, we know that this may be a challenging issue for you. We encourage you to explore virtual options, including digital meetings and other ways to stay in touch and supported during this time. [added 5/6/2020]

CAN I PICK UP MY PRESCRIPTIONS?

Yes.

OLDER ADULTS

CAN I VISIT LOVED ONES IN THE HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, SKILLED NURSING FACILITY, OR OTHER RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY?

Generally no.

It is strongly recommended that you do not go to a hospital unless you are seeking emergency medical attention or accompanying a minor who is under 18 years old or someone who is developmentally disabled and needs assistance.

Please use alternative ways to communicate with loved ones at nursing homes and residential care facilities. Like facetime and texting. The residents at those locations are the most vulnerable to COVID-19.

On March 11, 2020, the Health Officer issued an Order barring unauthorized visitors and non-essential personnel from licensed skilled nursing facilities in the county.

If you need to know more, please contact the facility you want to visit by phone before you leave.

This is difficult, but it is necessary in order to protect hospital staff and other patients.

ANIMALS AND PETS

CAN I GO BUY PET FOOD OR TAKE MY PET TO THE VET?

Yes.

CAN I GET MY PET GROOMED?

If the grooming is for aesthetics, no. If the grooming is for the necessary health and safety of the animal, yes. In addition, any service provider should maintain strict hygiene and social distancing practices. [updated 4/17/20]

CAN I STILL TRAVEL TO CARE FOR ANIMALS LIKE HORSES, GOATS AND OTHER FARM ANIMALS?

Yes.

ARE DOG PARKS OPEN?

Dog parks may remain open if seating areas are closed, hand sanitizer is provided at the entrance/exit (or users bring their own hand sanitizer), and users bring their own water and waste bags. Dog owners should maintain at least six feet of distance from each other; dogs are not required to maintain social distance from their dog peers. [updated 4/27/2020]

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND RECREATION

CAN I PLAY TEAM SPORTS OR GO TO THE GYM?

No. Instead, get exercise by taking a walk near your house, going for a jog, or riding your bike. But maintain a social distance of at least six feet from people who are not members of your household when doing so.

CAN I STILL GO FISHING?

Yes, if you can maintain at least six feet of distance from non-household members at all times, and you bring all your own equipment. [updated 4/27/20]

CAN I GO GOLFING?

Golf is permitted if the additional guidance provided by the County Health Officer, at the end of the April 27th [Nevada County Stay at Home Order](#), are strictly followed by both the courses and the players themselves. That includes practices by the golf courses, such as no seating, increased distance between tee times, no equipment rentals, among others. The golfers themselves must also engage in updated practices, such as no shared equipment, no high fives or hugs, 6' between players at all times, no groups larger than four people, among others. Please review the guidelines in full prior to planning your game. [link edited 5/6/2020]

CAN I GO BOATING AND CAN BOAT RAMPS OPEN?

Yes, boat ramps can be opened if the boat ramp owner determines they can open it safely, with appropriate precautions in place. Those precautions should include signage, closure of other areas (like picnic areas), appropriate sanitizing or elimination of high-touch surfaces, and any other practices appropriate to an individual environment to protect the public and staff.

Boating can be done by solo boaters, for instance in a kayak or stand-up paddle board, or by a stable household group. Individuals who are not part of a stable household group cannot go boating on the same boat, cannot share equipment, and should not travel to the recreation areas together. Any picnic areas near boat ramps must remain closed. [added 4/30/2020]

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO IN ADDITION TO WALKING AND BIKING?

A number of activities that allow for social distancing are now allowed. For example, disc golf courses may remain open if no contact is made with baskets. Tennis, pickleball, basketball, and volleyball courts may remain open for use by members of the same household only. So your volleyball team can't meet and practice, but you can play a game with your children or siblings. Games that require balls or other equipment can only be played if the equipment isn't shared outside of household members. In addition, golf courses and outdoor shooting and archery ranges may remain open if they follow guidance provided by the Health Officer at the end of the April 27th [Nevada County Stay at Home Order](#). [link edited 5/6/2020]