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PRESS RELEASE

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Rio Dell Volunteer Corp Distributes COVID Supplies to Local Businesses

The Rio Dell Volunteer Corp was called to action again to help the community respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The Corp is distributing PPE directly to local small businesses in an effort to help supply them with the tools to combat the virus and remain open. The supplies were secured by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Arcata Economic Development Corporation. It marks the second such distribution by the Corp who manufactured and distributed hand sanitizer to local businesses on June 8th of this year.

Additionally, the City is supplying bilingual placards for local business owners that inform customers of the masking requirements.

"I want to thank Susan Seaman and AEDC for their work in organizing these supplies." Mayor Garnes stated. "It was about this time last year that Susan and I teamed up for a little PSA about the looming Public Safety Power Shut-off (PSPS) situation. A lot of people were completely unaware of that threat; thought that it would never happen or that they could just turn on the Humboldt Bay Power Plant and everything would be fine. That ended up hitting our communities hard, and now COVID-19 poses yet another unprecedented threat. It's looking more and more like a long-term threat."

Garnes went on to stress the importance of wearing masks in public as a way to help keep local businesses open. "The State of California is watching Humboldt County. If they see a spike here, they will shut us down to protect healthcare workers and contain the virus. Right now there are 35 Counties where the State has imposed stricter measures, the closest being Sonoma County. The best way prevent us from being shut down again is to take some simple actions: Wear a mask in public. Wash your hands and clean surfaces regularly. Stay home when you're sick. Remain physically distanced."

Garnes concluded by stating, "Please, I'm asking for the remaining holdouts to help these local businesses by taking these simple actions."

2019 PSPS Public Service Announcement: <https://youtu.be/kBC8tWXUFUc>

June 15th COVID Minute: <https://youtu.be/kNs1ZN9vp50>

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