

March 7, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Mike North, 209-617-1596

COVID-19 DAILY STATUS REPORT

PLEASE NOTE: This is an evolving situation. More information will be distributed as it is available. For the most up to date information, please visit: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus. Additional information is available at www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus.

CURRENT STATUS:

- As of Saturday, March 7, 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in Merced County.
- Among neighboring counties, there was a case reported in Madera County today (Saturday). There are 24 active cases reported in Santa Clara County, and two active cases reported in San Benito County. There have been no deaths related to COVID-19 in counties adjacent to Merced.

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- Earlier this week, Merced County Public Health joined the Merced County Office of Emergency Services at the Emergency Operations Center to further plan and prepare for COVID-19 in our community. Merced County Public Health also held coordination meetings with law enforcement, first responders, healthcare professionals, and other local agencies. While there are no confirmed cases in Merced County at this time, Public Health and its partnering agencies are taking the opportunity to further prepare us for any potential future impacts.
- In coordination with the Merced County Office of Emergency Services, daily situational status calls were established beginning today (Saturday) with local government agencies, schools, and healthcare professionals in our community.
- Merced County Public Health is continuing to work with the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor COVID-19.
- The Merced County Public Health Department Operations Center was opened Jan. 27, 2020 (41 days) in order to prepare for the potential of COVID-19 in and around our community.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND PRECAUTIONS:

- Coronavirus symptoms include: mild to severe respiratory illness, fever, cough and difficulty breathing. If symptoms develop, individuals should stay at home to limit exposure to others.
- Persons who have recently traveled to China, Japan, South Korea, Iran, or Italy, or who have had contact with a person with possible COVID-19 infection and have the above symptoms should call their local health department or health care provider immediately.
- Do not go to your provider's office without calling ahead. Do not call 911 for suspected COVID-19 unless you are having a medical emergency.

- During the flu season, there are steps you can take to protect your health and the health of those around you:
 - Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Stay away from work, school or other people if you become sick with respiratory symptoms such as fever and cough.
 - Cover sneezes or coughs with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Merced County Public Health **Information Line:**
 - 209-381-1180 (English, Spanish, and Hmong).
- Merced County Public Health COVID-19 **Information Webpage:**
 - www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus
- **Email** COVID-19-specific questions to Merced County Public Health:
 - COVID19@countyofmerced.com.
- **CDC Resources for Households:**
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/index.html>

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