March 12, 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 becomes 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 Thursday, March 12, 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in Merced County.
- In California, there are 183 active cases, three deaths and two recoveries.

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- Although there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Merced County at this time, Merced County Public Health continues to coordinate with federal, state and local partners to further prepare us for any potential future impacts. This includes working with the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor COVID-19.
- In coordination with the Merced County Office of Emergency Services, daily situational status calls continued today with local government agencies, schools, and healthcare professionals in our community.
- This week, Governor Gavin Newsom and state public health officials announced that gatherings should be postponed or canceled across the state until at least the end of March, and non-essential gatherings should be limited to no more than 250 people. It is recommended that smaller events only proceed if the organizers can implement social distancing.
- The Merced County Public Health Department Operations Center was opened Jan. 27, 2020 (46 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:

Vicki Jones, MPA, REHS
Environmental Health Division Director

Jessica Montoya-Juarez, MS
Assistant Public Health Director

Yadira Vazquez, MBA
Assistant Public Health Director

James Clark, MICP, MHOAC
EMS Administrator

260 E. 15th Street, Merced, CA 95341 | Main: (209) 381-1200 | Environmental Health: (209) 381-1100 | www.countyofmerced.com/health

- 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
- Guidance for **Businesses and Employers**:
  - https://bit.ly/2IH2G2u

###