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Health Officials Confirm Fourth Death Related to COVID-19 in Merced County

MERCED COUNTY, CA – Today, the Merced County Department of Public Health (Department) confirmed the fourth death related to COVID-19, otherwise known as novel coronavirus. The Merced County resident was a male over the age of 65 with underlying health conditions.

“We are saddened by the confirmation of another death in our community due to COVID-19, and the Department sends its deepest condolences to the family,” said Merced County Public Health Officer Dr. Salvador Sandoval. “We want to remind the residents of Merced County that we must remain united in preventing the spread of this disease. Please do your part to halt the spread.”

Merced County health officials strongly urge everyone to continue following local health orders and practicing safety measures in daily routines. It is crucial that residents do not become complacent, or transmission levels could increase. Please exercise the following measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

EVERYONE SHOULD:

- ✓ Stay home, especially if you’re sick
- ✓ Limit your time and trips out of your home
- ✓ Wear a cloth face covering when you leave home; particularly when social distancing is not possible, as in enclosed places.
- ✓ Practice social distancing, which means keeping at least 6 feet between you and any person when outside of your home
- ✓ Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds as often as possible
- ✓ Not touch your eyes, nose or mouth
- ✓ Call your health care provider first if you think you have COVID-19

All Merced County residents interested in being tested for COVID-19 can register for an appointment online at www.lhi.care/covidtesting.

For additional information pertaining to COVID-19, please visit the Department’s resource website at www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus or call the Department information line at **209-381-1180** (English, Spanish, Hmong).

To schedule a phone interview, please contact the Public Health Communication Office from Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.—5 p.m. at **209-381-1187**.

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