

May 27, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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. These status reports will be released once a day in the afternoon on weekdays only. Statistics will continue to be updated daily at www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirusstats.

CURRENT STATUS:

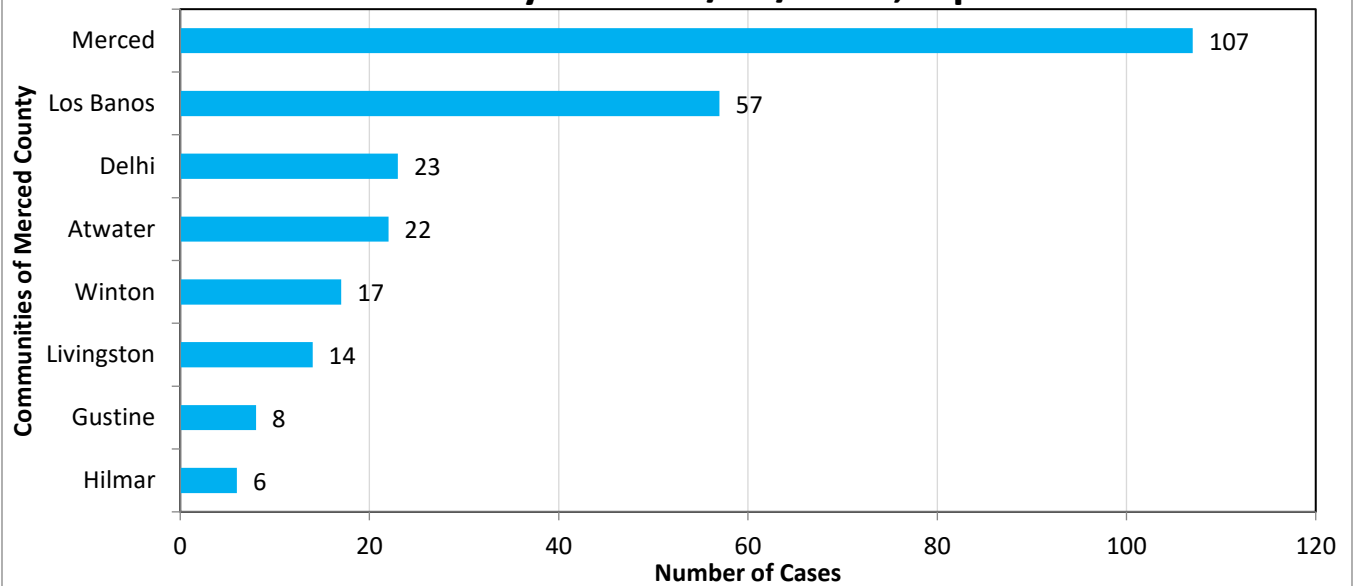
- As of 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, 2020, there are 278 confirmed cases (95 active) of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in Merced County. Of that number, 176 have recovered and seven have died.
- Please see "COVID-19 Testing Update" section for latest testing figures.

TOTAL COVID-19 CASE COUNT FOR MERCED COUNTY				
Current as of May 27, 2020, 2 p.m.				
# Confirmed*	# Active	# Recovered**	# Deaths	# Ever Hospitalized
278	95	Total: 176 East County: 124 West County: 52	7	38
CASE SUMMARY DETAILS				
EXPOSURE TYPE	East County	West County		
Acquired Out of Jurisdiction	28	10		
Community Spread	54	18		
Healthcare Exposure***	22	21		
Known Exposure	98	24		
Under Investigation	3	0		
GENDER	East County	West County		
Female	104	47		
Male	101	26		
AGE	East County	West County		
<18 years	25	4		
18-49	112	43		
50-64	39	17		
65+	29	9		

Notes:

- *Total confirmed cases include total recovered and total deaths.
- **Recovered defined as symptom free with no medication for 72 hours.
- ***Healthcare exposure includes exposure in and out of jurisdiction.
- East Merced County includes: Atwater, Ballico, Bear Creek, Calpack, Cressey, Delhi, El Nido, Hilmar, Irwin, Le Grand, Livingston, Merced, Planada, Snelling, Stevinson, Tuttle, and Winton
- West Merced County includes: Dos Palos, Gustine, Los Banos, Santa Nella, and Volta

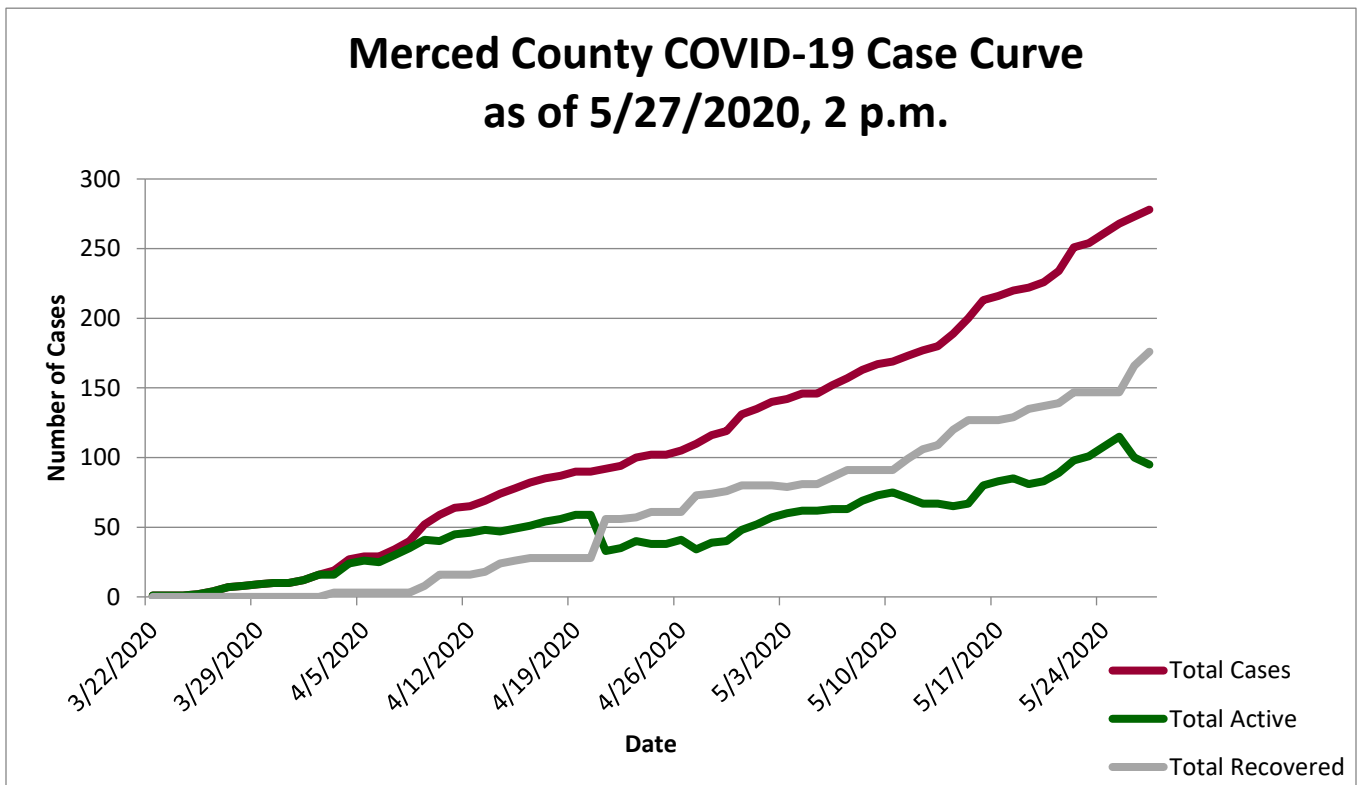
Merced County COVID-19 Positive Cases by Community* as of 5/27/2020, 2 p.m.



Note: *Only communities with five or more cases are reported in this graph.

The figures in the top chart on this page represent confirmed cases, which includes active cases, recoveries, and deaths.

Merced County COVID-19 Case Curve as of 5/27/2020, 2 p.m.



- Based on information provided by individuals who test positive, Public Health staff will continue to assess risks of exposure and contact any affected individuals.
- Due to privacy laws, the Public Health Department cannot release identifying information related to positive cases.
- In California, there are 100,090 confirmed cases and 3,835 deaths.

RECENT ACTIVITIES & UPDATES:

- Merced County Public Health continues to coordinate with federal, state and local partners to further prepare us for future impacts. This includes working with the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor COVID-19.
- On Monday, May 25, the Merced County Department of Public Health confirmed the seventh death related to COVID-19. The Merced County resident was a male over the age of 65 with underlying health conditions.
- In order to support small business employers facing financial impacts and potential layoffs from the novel-coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), Worknet Merced County has established the COVID-19 Reopen Merced County Fund. The fund will provide grants to small employers experiencing economic stresses in order to prevent potential layoffs or facility closures during COVID-19. Funding is open to Merced County businesses only, with up to \$1,000 available for businesses that employ 1-25 people, and \$2,000 available for businesses that employ 26-50 people. Funding can pay for items that allow the business to maintain operations during this time, including the purchase of remote access equipment, services or tools to convert to online sales, cleaning or sanitation supplies that are needed to reduce virus exposure, or other items the business needs to invest in so as to avoid the need for employee layoffs. Please note that funding cannot be spent directly on employee wages or benefits. Apply online now at www.ReopenMercedCounty.com/RMCFund.
- With the heat index exceeding 105 degrees today and tomorrow, various cooling zones are available to the public, with COVID-19 precautions in place. For additional information or to see what locations are available, please visit www.countyofmerced.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1850.
- Last week, the Merced County Department of Public Health received approval from the State to move into an accelerated form (Stage 2B) of California's Roadmap to Modify the Stay-at-Home order. This will allow for the reopening of dine-in restaurants and in-person retail with proper social distancing and other procedures to protect the health of patrons and employees. Prior to opening, businesses will need to review State requirements and prepare a plan to show customers and employees that they've reduced the health risk from COVID-19. State requirements and guidance documents can be found on www.reopenmercedcounty.com/guidelines. Merced County anticipates State requirements and guidance to be modified moving forward. If this information is updated by the State, it will also be updated on www.reopenmercedcounty.com/guidelines.
- On Monday, The California Department of Public Health announced the statewide reopening of places of worship for religious services and in-store retail shopping. Modifications are required in order to keep Californians safe and limit the spread of COVID-19. The new guidance from the State limits religious services and funerals to 25 percent of a building's capacity or up to 100 attendees—whichever is lower. On Tuesday, the State also announced that counties that have attested to meeting the criteria for accelerated re-opening may re-open hair salons and barbershops with modifications, such as mandatory face coverings for both the barber/stylist and client. Salon activities that cannot be done with face coverings, such as shaving, facials, waxing, etc., are still prohibited by the State at this time. For additional information and instructions for re-opening places of worship/businesses, please visit www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus and www.reopenmercedcounty.com, respectively.
- The Merced County Office of Emergency Services and Merced County Department of Public Health proclaimed a local and public health emergency March 13 in order to help address the outbreak. The Board of Supervisors ratified those actions during a March 16 special meeting.

- On March 19, Governor Gavin Newsom announced Executive Order N-33-20, asking California residents to stay at home. On March 20, Merced County's Health Officer also issued an Order directing County residents to remain in their places of residence except to perform or receive essential services.
- The Merced County Public Health Department Operations Center was activated Jan. 27, 2020 (122 days) in order to prepare for COVID-19 in and around our community. The Merced County Emergency Operations Center and Human Services Agency Department Operations Center are also currently active.

COVID-19 TESTING UPDATE:

- A total of 5,864 tests have been performed in Merced County: 5,516 negatives, 278 positives, and 70 still pending. These figures include testing through both the commercial and public health lab systems.
- COVID-19 Testing Available for All Merced County Residents:
 - Merced County Fairgrounds: 900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Merced
 - 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday—Friday
 - Register at www.lhi.care/covidtesting or by calling 1-888-634-1123
 - Due to expected high demand, testing availability is by appointment only in order to prevent unnecessarily-long wait times for clients. Walk-ins will not be accepted at this time.
- Within the public health system, every person who has met CDC criteria for severe disease within Merced County has been tested.
- Public Health is actively identifying other methods to enhance testing capability for providers throughout the community and increase testing county-wide. We will continue to be notified should positive tests come through either system (public health or commercial).
- In late March, Merced County opened two “mobile specimen collection sites” for COVID-19 in order to streamline testing capabilities. Initially, there will be two collection days per week, one on the westside of the County, and one on the eastside of the County. Each site will remain open for four hours per day. Additional hours per day and days per week may become more frequent if supply and personnel availability increase.
 - **PLEASE NOTE:** Use of these mobile specimen collection sites are by appointment only, and you must have a prescription from a physician and prior approval from the Merced County Department of Public Health. If you do not have a provider and have symptoms call 209-381-1180 for a phone consultation. Anyone without prior approval will not be tested. Locations will be provided to clients once appointments are made. Call 209-381-1180 for more information.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND PRECAUTIONS:

- Coronavirus symptoms include: mild to severe respiratory illness, fever, cough, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell. If symptoms develop, individuals should stay at home to limit exposure to others.
- Anyone who has had contact with a person with possible COVID-19 infection and has the above symptoms should call his/her local health department/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:

- **Sign up for COVID-19 alerts:** www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus
- Merced County Public Health COVID-19 **Information Webpage:**
 - www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus
- Merced County Public Health **Information Line:**
 - 209-381-1180 (English, Spanish, and Hmong. Live reps. available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- **Email** COVID-19-specific questions to Merced County Public Health:
 - COVID19@countyofmerced.com.
- Updated **CDC Information:**
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/whats-new-all.html>
- **CDC Resources for Households:**
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/index.html>
- How to **talk to your kids** about the coronavirus:
 - <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-coronavirus>
- Guidance for **Businesses and Employers:**
 - <https://bit.ly/2IH2G2u>
 - www.covid19.ca.gov
- Report **Price Gouging:**
 - <http://www.countyofmerced.com/3381/Price-Gouging>
- Report **Consumer Fraud:**
 - www.countyofmerced.com/2322/Consumer-Fraud
- Report **non-essential business activity** and large group gatherings that violate the Stay-at-Home Order:
 - Hotline: 209-381-1100 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday)
 - Email: COVIDcomplaint@countyofmerced.com
- **Free Virtual Care** options through Dignity Health for those with COVID-19 symptoms:
 - Patients can receive a free Virtual Care Anywhere visit if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Symptoms can include fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
 - To access a free virtual urgent care visit, visit www.dignityhealth.org/virtualcareanywhere, download the Virtual Care Anywhere app in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or call 855-356-8053 and use the coupon code COVID19.
- **Get Help/Give Help:**
 - www.gethelpgivehelpmerced.com
- **Donations**—help community members impacted by COVID-19:
 - www.countyofmerced.com/donations
- Exclusive **Shopping for Vulnerable Populations:**
 - www.countyofmerced.com/3396/Exclusive-Shopping-for-Vulnerable-Popula
- Make and donate **face masks:**
 - www.rccmercedcounty.org
- Apply for **benefits**—Individuals experiencing financial hardship may qualify for cash assistance through CalWORKs, food nutrition assistance through CalFresh, and medical assistance through MediCal:

- www.getcalfresh.org (CalFresh only)
- www.C4yourself.com (CalWORKs and MediCal)
- 1-855-421-6770
- **Unemployment Insurance** questions to local Merced County EDD Office:
 - WSBModestoFieldOffice@edd.ca.gov
- Information regarding **tenant protections**:
 - www.countyofmerced.com/3412/Real-Estate
- **24/7 Warm Line for Youth** (emotional support):
 - 209-381-6800 or 1-888-334-0163 (toll free)
 - Additional Behavioral Health resources: www.countyofmerced.com/3395/Behavioral-Health-Resources
- **Reopen Merced County**:
 - www.reopenmercedcounty.com
 - www.reopenmercedcounty.com/survey

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