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MERCED COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PHAB
Advancing public health performance
ACCREDITED HEALTH DEPARTMENT · PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION BOARD

July 3, 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 are released daily on normal business days. Statistics will continue to be updated on weekdays at www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirusstats.

CURRENT STATUS:

- As of 2 p.m. Friday, July 3, 2020, there are 1,272 confirmed cases (+64 from yesterday) of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in Merced County. Approximately 708 of those cases are active, and 11 have died.
- Please see "COVID-19 Testing Update" section for the most recent testing figures.

Merced County Public Health COVID-19 Case Data

Total Case Curve

New Cases

Number of Cases by Community

MERCED COUNTY HELP HUB

REOPENING MERCED COUNTY CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AT www.reopenmercedcounty.com

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Confirmed
1,272
*Laboratory confirmed case

Testing Site Locations (click on upper right hand side of map to identify)

Positive Case Percentage
8.3%
*% of tests that are positive

Probable Active
708
*New Cases in last 14 days

Ever Hospitalized
106
* Merced County residents ever hospitalized in any county

Active Hospitalization
26
* Merced County residents hospitalized in any county

Deaths
11
* Merced County residents who died in any county

Merced County COVID-19 Positive Cases by Gender

Merced County COVID-19 Positive Cases by Age

Merced County COVID-19 Positive Cases by Exposure

- **View this interactive dashboard online at:** www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirusstats
- 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 245,288 confirmed cases and 6,261 deaths.

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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.
- Merced County has been placed on the State watch list due to rapidly increasing disease transmission, increased hospitalizations, and a rise in the percentage of individuals testing positive for COVID-19, indicating increased circulation throughout the community. Further details can be found at: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/CountyMonitoringDataStep2.aspx
- In response to the high rate of transmission locally, the State directed the Merced County Department of Public Health to amend the "Stay Safe Health Order." The Order was amended Thursday, July 2, and again on Friday, July 3. The current version of the Order (with guidance) can be viewed here: https://bit.ly/2ZzcnrD. At the direction of the Governor, Merced County health officials are mandating the closure of higher risk business sectors, effective immediately. All bars, brew pubs and breweries must cease operations (indoor and outdoor). In addition, the following business sectors must close all indoor operations:
    - Restaurants (socially-distanced outdoor dining still permissible)
    - Wineries and Tasting Rooms
    - Family Entertainment Centers (e.g., bowling, movie theaters, etc.)
    - Zoos and Museums
    - Cardrooms
- This closure is for an expected minimum of three weeks. If numbers continue to rise, that closure timeframe could be extended by the State and additional business sectors could be closed. If numbers trend downward in the coming days, the three-week closure could potentially be reduced. The current Order will continue until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.
- In response to the current spike of COVID-19, face coverings are now mandated by the State and County. The amended Order recommends that businesses post face covering requirements at entrances. Businesses have the authority to refuse entrance for failure to wear a face covering. Stay home if you're sick, and wear face coverings when:
    - Inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor public space;
    - Obtaining healthcare services;
    - Waiting for or riding on public transportation or while in any private or ride-sharing vehicle including operators of the transportation;
    - At the workplace or performing work off-site;
    - Outdoors in public spaces where physical distancing is not possible.
- A new "Outbreaks" tab was added to the County's COVID-19 webpage, www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus. The page provides information on current outbreaks in Merced County using the California Department of Public Health's definition of an outbreak, which includes:
    - Three or more individuals with no linkage outside of the workplace, working in the same facility and shift; or
    - One resident of a skilled nursing facility.
  When a facility is determined to be in an outbreak protocol, the Merced County Department of Public Health works closely with the facility to mitigate the spread of disease. Affected close contacts are contacted by the facility/employer.
- Worknet Business Funding Opportunity: In order to support small business employers facing financial impacts and potential layoffs from the novel-coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), Worknet Merced County has opened a second round of funding through the COVID-19 Reopen

- Due to the spike of COVID-19 cases, Merced County's regional parks will be closed to the public over the Fourth of July holiday weekend (Friday-Sunday). This includes Lake Yosemite, Hagaman Park, and Henderson Park. These parks are projected to reopen Monday, but physical distancing must be adhered to and large group gatherings will continue to be prohibited. Residents are strongly advised to avoid mass gatherings, wear face coverings (as mandated by the State and County), and exercise appropriate preventative measures such as hand hygiene and social distancing over the Fourth of July weekend.
- 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 (159 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:
- As of June 30, a total of 14,269 tests have been performed in Merced County: 12,925 negatives, 1,064 positives, and 280 still pending. These figures include testing through both the commercial and public health lab systems.

Testing Site	Location	Registration
Golden Valley Health Centers	645 Seventh St, Los Banos	1-866-682-4842 www.gvhc.org
Golden Valley Health Centers	857 W. Childs Ave., Merced	1-866-682-4842 www.gvhc.org
State Site	900 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr, Merced	1-888-634-1123 or online at www.lhi.care/covidtesting.
CVS – Merced	1970 Yosemite Pkwy, Merced	https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing?WT.ac=cvs-storelocator-searchpilot-header-covid-7206
CVS – Atwater	1651 Bellevue Rd, Atwater	https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing?WT.ac=cvs-storelocator-searchpilot-header-covid-7206

- 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).

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.
  - Wear a face covering when in public.

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)

- o Email: COVIDcomplaint@countyofmerced.com
- **Free Virtual Care** options through Dignity Health for those with COVID-19 symptoms:
  - o 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.
  - o 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**:
  - o www.gethelpgivehelpmerced.com
- **Donations**—help community members impacted by COVID-19:
  - o www.countyofmerced.com/donations
- Exclusive **Shopping for Vulnerable Populations**:
  - o www.countyofmerced.com/3396/Exclusive-Shopping-for-Vulnerable-Popula
- Apply for **benefits**— Individuals experiencing financial hardship may qualify for cash assistance through CalWORKS, food nutrition assistance through CalFresh, and medical assistance through MediCal:
  - o www.getcalfresh.org (CalFresh only)
  - o www.C4yourself.com (CalWORKs and MediCal)
  - o 1-855-421-6770
- **Unemployment Insurance** questions to local Merced County EDD Office:
  - o WSBModestoFieldOffice@edd.ca.gov
- Information regarding **tenant protections**:
  - o www.countyofmerced.com/3412/Real-Estate
- 24/7 **Warm Line for Youth** (emotional support):
  - o 209-381-6800 or 1-888-334-0163 (toll free)
  - o Additional Behavioral Health resources: www.countyofmerced.com/3395/Behavioral-Health-Resources
- **Reopen Merced County**:
  - o www.reopenmercedcounty.com
  - o www.reopenmercedcounty.com/survey
  - o COVID-19 Reopen Merced County Fund: www.ReopenMercedCounty.com/RMCFund

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