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An Outbreak of COVID-19 Confirmed at Almond Processing Facility

MERCED COUNTY, CA – The Merced County Department of Public Health (Department) has confirmed that eight employees at the Hughson Nut Company (Company), in Livingston, have tested positive for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). It is not uncommon for an outbreak to occur in business sectors that require close contact.

The Company is working together with Public Health Officials to investigate the outbreak. The affected portion of the plant has been closed and is being disinfected. Employees with close contact to the individuals that have tested positive have been ordered to quarantine at home, and all employees have been advised to test for COVID-19.

If you visited the Hughson Nut Company between the dates of May 18 to June 12, and are experiencing symptoms that you feel might be due to infection from COVID-19 (shortness of breath, fever, and cough), please call your medical provider.

“We appreciate the cooperation of the Hughson Nut Company with the investigation of this outbreak. It’s important for all individuals to follow preventative safety practices to help minimize the spread of this virus in our community. We hope for a successful recovery for all those affected,” says Dr. Salvador Sandoval, Merced County Public Health Officer.

As a reminder, everyone should:

- ✓ Wear a cloth face covering when in public
- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- ✓ Practice social distancing
- ✓ Frequently wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds

If you are a Merced County resident who would like to be tested for COVID-19, please register for an appointment by calling 1-888-634-1123 or online at www.lhi.care/covidtesting.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit the Department’s resource website at www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus.

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