

June 17, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 WEEKLY 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 week on Wednesdays only. Statistics will continue to be updated daily at www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirusstats.

CURRENT STATUS:

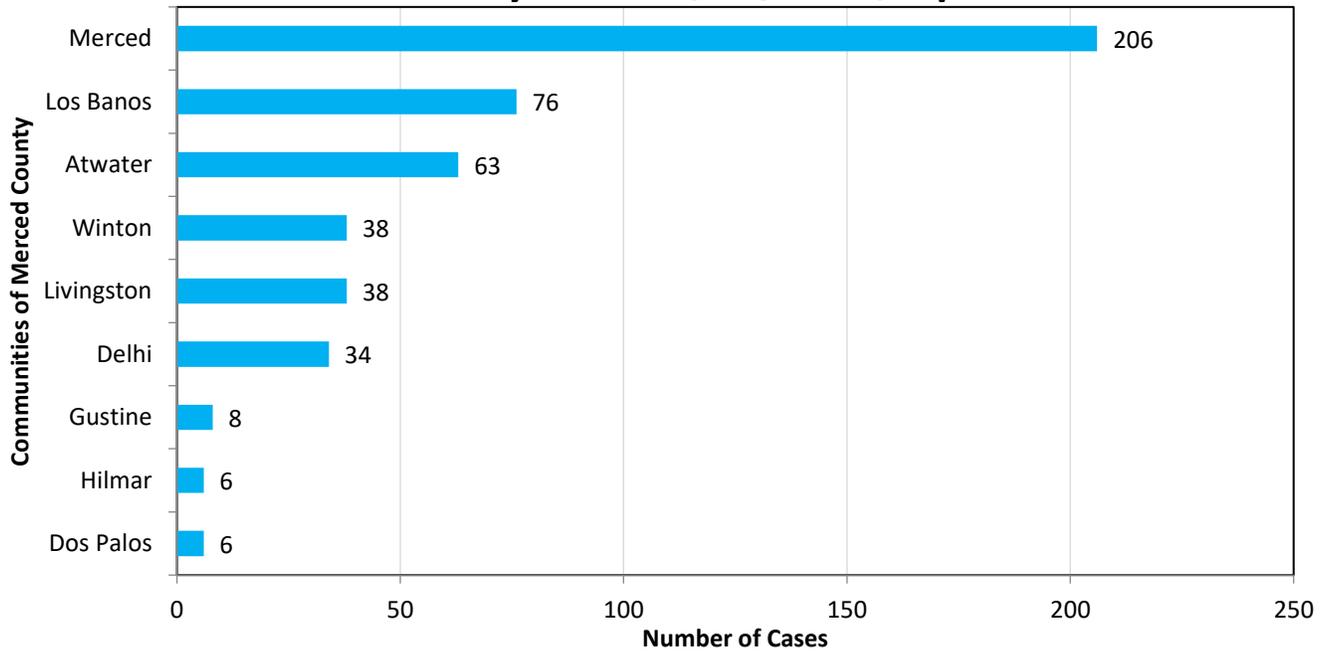
- As of 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, 2020, there are 509 confirmed cases (182 active) of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in Merced County. Of that number, 319 have recovered and eight have died.
- Please see "COVID-19 Testing Update" section for latest testing figures.

TOTAL COVID-19 CASE COUNT FOR MERCED COUNTY				
Current as of June 17, 2020, 2 p.m.				
# Confirmed*	# Active	# Recovered**	# Deaths	# Ever Hospitalized
509	182	Total: 319 East County: 242 West County: 77	8	52
CASE SUMMARY DETAILS				
EXPOSURE TYPE	East County	West County		
Acquired Out of Jurisdiction	39	16		
Community Spread	118	28		
Healthcare Exposure***	23	22		
Known Exposure	189	27		
Under Investigation	41	5		
GENDER	East County	West County		
Female	210	60		
Male	200	38		
AGE	East County	West County		
<18 years	48	4		
18-49	244	58		
50-64	79	24		
65+	39	12		

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

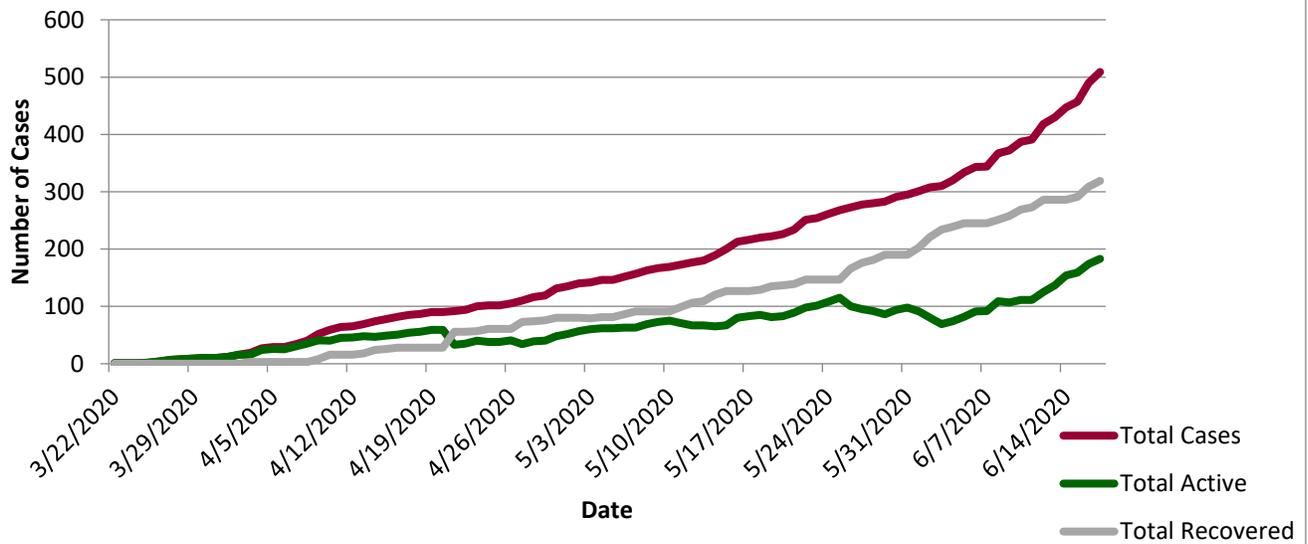
Merced County COVID-19 Positive Cases by Community* as of 6/17/2020, 2 p.m.



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 6/17/2020, 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 157,015 confirmed cases and 5,208 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.
- Today, the Merced County Department of Public Health confirmed the eighth death related to COVID-19. The Merced County resident was a male between the ages of 35 and 50 and did not have underlying health conditions.
- On Monday, Public Health reported that eight employees at the Hughson Nut Company in Livingston tested positive for COVID-19. Hughson Nut 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 and 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.
- #StaySafeStayOpen: As Merced County continues to move through the reopening process, it's important that everyone continues to practice preventative measures to avoid large spikes in cases that could jeopardize that effort. In response, the Merced County Department of Public Health has launched a new public awareness campaign called #StaySafeStayOpen. Here's how to get involved:
 - On social media, post pictures of yourself practicing preventative measures (social distancing, hand-washing, mask-wearing, etc.) using the hashtag: #StaySafeStayOpen. You can also tag Public Health on Facebook and Instagram: @mercedcountypublichealth
 - Promote the use of cloth face coverings when in public and post your mask-wearing photos on Mondays using the hashtag: #MaskMonday. Be sure to tag Public Health using the handle @mercedcountypublichealth on Facebook and Instagram.
 - Encourage your friends, family and neighbors to participate as well!
- 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 (143 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 9,437 tests have been performed in Merced County: 8,830 negatives, 509 positives, and 98 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

- Testing availability is by appointment only in order to prevent unnecessarily-long wait times for clients. Walk-ins are not 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).
- Mobile Specimen Collection:
 - **PLEASE NOTE:** Use of 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
 - COVID-19 Reopen Merced County Fund: www.ReopenMercedCounty.com/RMCFund

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