

June 24, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

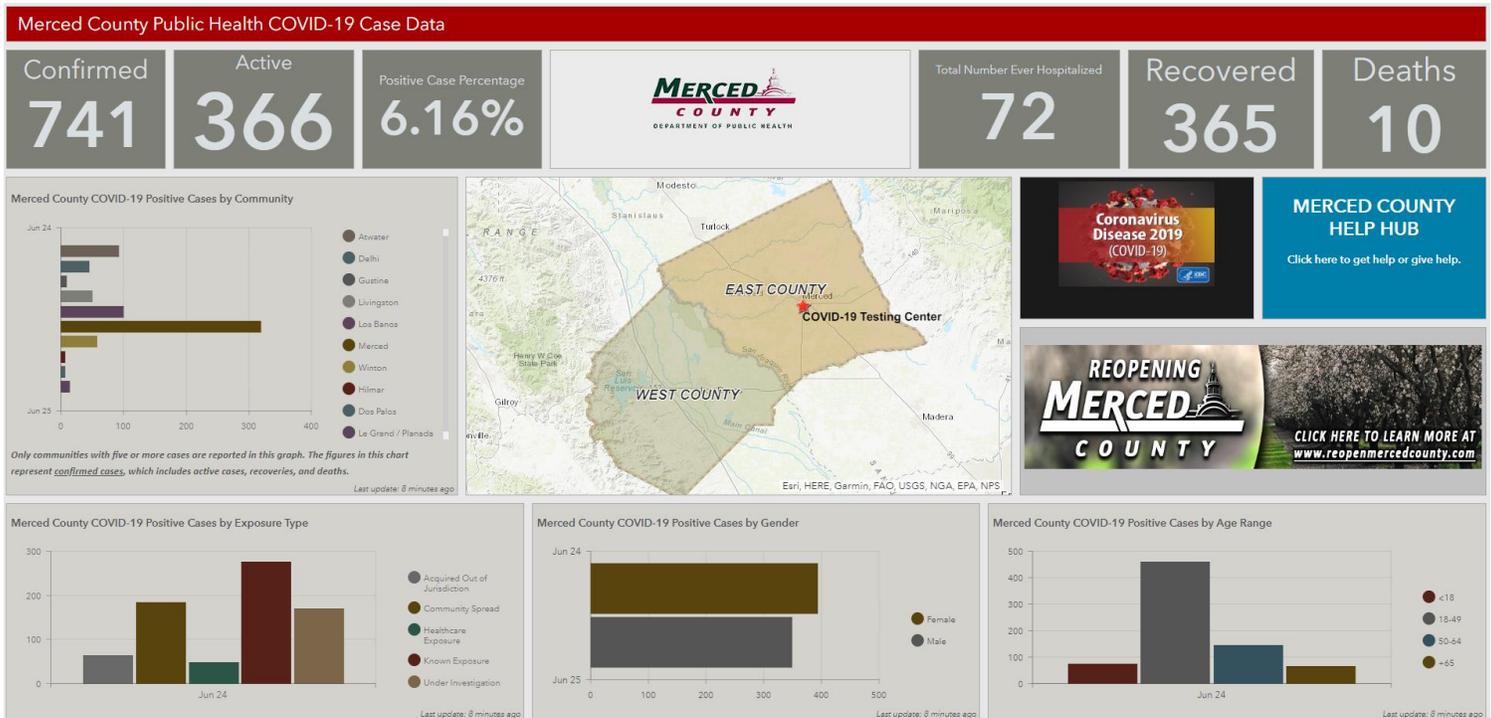
CONTACT: Mike North, 209-726-2744

**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](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). Additional information is available at [www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus](http://www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus). Moving forward, these status reports will be released once a week on **Tuesdays only**. Statistics will be updated on weekdays at [www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirusstats](http://www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirusstats).

**CURRENT STATUS:**

- As of 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, 2020, there are 741 confirmed cases (366 active) of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in Merced County. Of that number, 365 have recovered and 10 have died.
- Please see "COVID-19 Testing Update" section for latest testing figures.



- View this interactive dashboard online at: [www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirusstats](http://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 190,776 confirmed cases and 5,640 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.
- Over the weekend, the Merced County Department of Public Health confirmed the 9th and 10th deaths related to COVID-19. One was a male Merced County resident over the age of 65 and did not have underlying health conditions. The other was a female Merced County resident over the age of 65 with underlying health conditions
- Recently, California mandated the use of face coverings in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. Face coverings are now be required to be worn:
  - Inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor public space;
  - When obtaining healthcare services;
  - Waiting for or riding on public transportation or while in any private or ride-sharing vehicle including operators of the transportation;
  - When at the workplace or performing work off-site;
  - While outdoors in public spaces when physical distancing is not feasible.
- 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 (150 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 12,025 tests have been performed in Merced County: 11,122 negatives, 710 positives, and 193 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 <a href="http://www.gvhc.org">www.gvhc.org</a>
Golden Valley Health Centers	857 W. Childs Ave., Merced	1-866-682-4842 <a href="http://www.gvhc.org">www.gvhc.org</a>
State Site	900 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr, Merced	1-888-634-1123 or online at <a href="http://www.lhi.care/covidtesting">www.lhi.care/covidtesting</a> .
CVS – Merced	1970 Yosemite Pkwy, Merced	<a href="https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing?WT.ac=cvstorelocator-searchpilot-header-covid-7206">https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing?WT.ac=cvstorelocator-searchpilot-header-covid-7206</a>
CVS – Atwater	1651 Bellevue Rd, Atwater	<a href="https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing?WT.ac=cvstorelocator-searchpilot-header-covid-7206">https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing?WT.ac=cvstorelocator-searchpilot-header-covid-7206</a>

- 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.

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

- **Sign up for COVID-19 alerts:** [www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus](http://www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus)
- Merced County Public Health COVID-19 **Information Webpage:**
  - [www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus](http://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](http://www.covid19.ca.gov)
- Report **Price Gouging:**
  - <http://www.countyofmerced.com/3381/Price-Gouging>
- Report **Consumer Fraud:**
  - [www.countyofmerced.com/2322/Consumer-Fraud](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.gethelpgivehelpmerced.com)
- **Donations**—help community members impacted by COVID-19:
  - [www.countyofmerced.com/donations](http://www.countyofmerced.com/donations)
- Exclusive **Shopping for Vulnerable Populations:**
  - [www.countyofmerced.com/3396/Exclusive-Shopping-for-Vulnerable-Popula](http://www.countyofmerced.com/3396/Exclusive-Shopping-for-Vulnerable-Popula)
- Make and donate **face masks:**
  - [www.rccmercedcounty.org](http://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](http://www.getcalfresh.org) (CalFresh only)
  - [www.C4yourself.com](http://www.C4yourself.com) (CalWORKs and MediCal)
  - 1-855-421-6770
- **Unemployment Insurance** questions to local Merced County EDD Office:
  - [WSBModestoFieldOffice@edd.ca.gov](mailto:WSBModestoFieldOffice@edd.ca.gov)
- Information regarding **tenant protections:**
  - [www.countyofmerced.com/3412/Real-Estate](http://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](http://www.countyofmerced.com/3395/Behavioral-Health-Resources)
- **Reopen Merced County:**
  - [www.reopenmercedcounty.com](http://www.reopenmercedcounty.com)
  - [www.reopenmercedcounty.com/survey](http://www.reopenmercedcounty.com/survey)
  - COVID-19 Reopen Merced County Fund: [www.ReopenMercedCounty.com/RMCFund](http://www.ReopenMercedCounty.com/RMCFund)

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