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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.sjcphs.org.

CURRENT STATUS:

- As of Friday AM, March 20, there are 20 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) and 2 deaths in San Joaquin County.
- In California, there are 675 active cases and 16 deaths, as of 6pm on 3/18/20.

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- Public Health Services (PHS) posted the 3/18/20 press release in Spanish announcing the first deaths from COVID-19.
- PHS issued an updated Health Alert regarding COVID-19 Update on Laboratory Testing and Isolation Clearance. It is posted on the PHS website under Providers. Highlights include:
 - People who have symptoms of COVID-19 need to contact their medical care providers for evaluation.
 - Outpatient specimens can be sent to a commercial laboratory. At this time, the San Joaquin Public Health Laboratory is focusing on testing hospitalized patients.
 - People who are asymptomatic **do not** need testing.
 - Patients who do not need hospital care should be advised to self-isolate at home.
- PHS staff have developed presentations for different community groups that are being scheduled. Target audiences include those serving the homeless, older adult populations, and families. Requests for presentations for small in-person groups or by webinar and teleconferences can be made by contacting Rex Anne or Katelynn at Health Promotion at 953-7309.
- The State Public Health Officer issued a statewide order for Stay Home Except for Essential Needs.

COVID-19 RECOMMENDATIONS:

To protect those most vulnerable (people age 65 and older and/or those with chronic medical conditions) from exposure to COVID-19, it is critical for everyone to follow these recommendations:

- If you have any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, and shortness of breath), stay home. Most people with mild symptoms can care for themselves.
- If you are experiencing worsening symptoms and are in the high risk category, immediately contact your local healthcare provider. People should only call 911 if they feel they are in imminent danger.
- Avoid contact or maintain at least a six feet distance with anyone, especially those in the high risk category.
- Urge those age 65 and older and anyone with underlying chronic medical condition to stay away from large gatherings.
- Wash your hands often and be sure to practice good hand washing techniques.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If tissues are not available, cough or sneeze into the inside of your elbow. Then wash your hands again.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- If sick, stay home to reduce the exposure to others for 7 days from onset of symptoms, and await 72 hours after symptoms resolve.

-more-

Remain calm, be prepared, and stay informed!

This is a rapidly evolving situation. It is helpful to be ready for changes in your daily routine that could last for an extended period of time. We encourage you to check the following websites and their social media accounts routinely for the latest information and useful tips:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coronavirus webpage
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) COVID-19 webpage
<https://cdph.ca.gov/covid19>
- San Joaquin County Public Health Services (PHS) website
<http://www.sjcphs.org>
- Office of Emergency Services—SJReady.org
<http://www.sjready.org>

WHAT SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY IS DOING:

Since the start of this outbreak, we have taken a proactive approach to prepare for and carefully monitor potential cases of COVID-19 in San Joaquin County. Actions we have taken include:

- Maintaining regular contact and following the guidance from the CDC and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH);
- Conducting PHS planning meetings with our programs such as Emergency Preparedness, Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemiology, and Public Information and Communication to allow for enhanced response coordination;
- Working to insure that our health care systems, first responders and schools have the guidance they need through presentations, phone consultations, and meetings;
- Maintaining communication and outreach with federal, state and local partners, including the County EMS and other Regional entities;
- Having the Public Health Services Laboratory now reach capacity to analyze up to 60 tests per day from healthcare providers with hospitalized patients with results are typically known within 48 hours;
- Distributing information and updates to health care professionals and educational settings; and,
- Reviewing and adapting current pandemic plans for COVID-19.

As this situation evolves, we will continually update the community through our [Website](#), our [Facebook page](#) and our [Twitter account](#), as well as news releases.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [CDC Website for 2019 Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China](#)
- [California Dept. of Public Health/Novel Coronavirus 2019 \(nCoV-2019\) page](#)
- [Guidance Documents: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) A list of various guidance documents (e.g., event organizers, first responders, employers, home cleaning, etc.) can be found on the California Department of Public Health webpage,
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx>
 - [Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission](#)
 - [State Health & Emergency Officials Release Guidance to Prepare and Protect Homeless Californians and Services Providers from COVID-19 \(3/11/20\)](#)
 - [San Joaquin County Public Health Services Guidance for Schools, Childcare & Providers on COVID-19 \(3/13/20\)](#)
 - [San Joaquin County Guidance for Employers 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Health Information Fact Sheet, Coronavirus diseases 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [What you need to know about Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\), Eng/Spa](#)
- [What to do if you are sick with Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\), Eng/Spa](#)
- [Stop the spread of germs, English/Spanish](#)