
COVID-19 Press Conference 3/25/2020
PH Talking Points

Introduction statement:

Our joint information team wanted to provide you with our most recent information. Team members.....

- I am Michelle Schmidt, Supervising Public Health Nurse with the Tehama County Health Services Agency
- Dr. Richard Wickenheiser, Health Officer
- Andy Houghtby, Sergeant Tehama County Sheriff's Office
- David Hencratt, Tehama County Sheriff
- Battalion Chief John Berglund from CAL FIRE
- Inspector Dave Doughty representing Tehama County Fire Department
- Randy Pennebaker, Senior Director of Operations/Director of Pharmacy representing Dignity Health
- Rich Duvarney, Superintendent of Schools

Please recognize that this situation is changing daily but to date this is what we know:

Current Cases in Tehama County = 0

Testing in the county happens through both Commercial labs and Shasta County Public Health lab. Since testing comes from both private and public sources what we know is that to date 47 tests have come back negative for Tehama County residents.

Medical providers are the ones who make the determination of who needs to be tested based upon patient symptoms. The medical guidance from California Department of Public Health and Center for Disease Control and Prevention is testing people who have met one or more of these criteria, which are subject to change:

- travelled to an affected country

- coughing, fever and shortness of breath and/or
- direct contact with anyone who has tested positive

Testing method include nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab or sputum collection as determined by the provider.

Isolation and Quarantine:

While a person is awaiting their test they are asked to self-isolate.

- Isolation separates ill persons who have a communicable disease from those who are healthy. Isolation restricts the movement of ill persons to help stop the spread of certain diseases.
- Quarantine is used to separate and restrict the movement of well persons who may have been exposed to a communicable disease to see if they become ill. These people may have been exposed to a disease.

What is PH doing in Response to COVID-19:

- Continue to monitor any suspect cases that come in
- Continue to monitor testing that is being done throughout the county
- Responding to public inquiries
- Producing clinical guidance for local medical professionals
- Working with medical providers to provide needed resources to aid in their care of the medically fragile in our community.
- Collaborating with local school nurses to prepare and help with contact investigations should we get a positive case

Prevention Tips:

We'd like to remind people what they can do to prevent the Coronavirus:

- STAY HOME. If you are experiencing respiratory symptoms like a cough or fever, stay home.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue or your sleeve. Dispose of tissue and wash your hands afterward.

- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Keep your distance. Avoid close contact with sick people and stay 6 feet away from people when possible.
- CALL AHEAD. If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath), call your health care provider before seeking care.

Open up for Questions

We appreciate your efforts in helping to get our messaging out and are happy to address your questions.