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To promote and protect the health and well-being of Kings County residents through education, prevention, and intervention.

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Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update Kings County Department of Public Health

Dr. Milton Teske, Health Officer for the Department of Public Health, would like to provide updated information regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Since this outbreak, COVID-19 has expanded to 117 countries. The outbreak has now been characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization and increased efforts to contain the spread are encouraged.

According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), as of March 12, 2020, there are 198 confirmed positive cases in California, including four deaths. Approximately 11,100 people are self-monitoring across 49 Local Health Jurisdictions.

Currently, there have been no confirmed cases in Kings County. Until the situation changes in Kings County, the Kings County Department of Public Health will primarily communicate with the community through its website. Therefore, the most recent and current information will be found there. Access this webpage by following this link: <https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/health-welfare/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

To protect public health and slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19, the California Department of Public Health has released the following public gatherings guidance:

- Large gatherings that include 250 people or more should be postponed or canceled. This includes gatherings such as concerts, conferences, as well as professional, college, and school sporting events.
- Smaller gatherings held in venues that do not allow social distancing of six feet of space per person should be postponed or canceled. This includes gatherings in crowded auditoriums, rooms, or other venues.
- Gatherings of individuals who are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people. This includes gatherings such as those at retirement facilities, assisted living facilities, developmental homes, and support groups for people with health conditions.
- A “gathering” is any event or convening that brings together people in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria, or any other indoor or outdoor space.

How long will these limitations apply?

This guidance will remain in place at least through the month of March. As with all guidance that relates to COVID-19 response, authorities will revisit this guidance on a regular basis to evaluate the continued public health need for it and to evaluate if any elements need to be changed. To stay informed, continue to monitor this link: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx>

Kings County Department of Public Health continues to encourage that measures should be taken to protect yourself and others from getting sick, as with any virus, especially during the flu season. The Health Department reminds you there are a number of steps you can take to protect your health and those around you:

- Wash hands with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay away from work, school, or other people if you become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough.

Please be aware the most reliable sources of information are the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Kings County Department of Public Health. Please avoid social media as a source of COVID-19 information, as many times the sources quoted are not reliable. We have included links to these organizations below:

Kings County Department of Public Health (KCDPH) website:

<https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/health-welfare/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) website:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The World Health Organization (WHO) website:

<https://who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>