



Edward D. Hill
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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 76 countries. This outbreak continues to expand in scope and magnitude.

According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), as of March 4, 2020, there are 53 confirmed positive cases in California, including one death.

CDPH states the health risk from the COVID-19 to the general public in California remains low.

Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other breathing difficulties, which may occur two to 14 days after exposure. Dr. Teske recommends if you develop any symptoms, stay home, and call your provider or healthcare facility first for further information.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has broadened the testing criteria for COVID-19. Based on the rising number of confirmed cases within the United States, there will be an increased number of tests for COVID-19 done in Kings County. Currently, the CDC is allowing local health jurisdictions to assess and decide when testing criteria are met.

Currently, there have been no confirmed cases in Kings County. The Kings County Department of Public Health has added a COVID-19 webpage to its site where you can find up to date information and additional helpful links. 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>

The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Individuals wearing facemasks when they are well are more likely to touch their face as they adjust the facemask throughout the day. Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of respiratory disease to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for healthcare

workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).

Measures should be taken to protect yourself and others from getting sick, as with any virus, especially during the flu season. The Department of Public Health 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>