



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: María Peinado,
Public Health Information Officer
Imperial County Public Health Department
mariapeinado@co.imperial.ca.us

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PHONE: (442) 265-1348

IMPERIAL COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER SHARES UPDATE ON 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The risk of getting COVID-19 in the United States remains low.

IMPERIAL COUNTY- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently confirmed a possible first case of person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 in Solano County, California. The individual has no known exposure to the virus through travel or close contact with a known infected individual. Despite this recent finding, the risk of getting COVID-19 in the United States remains low. Please note, COVID-19 is the official name for the illness caused by the new coronavirus (previously known as 2019 Novel Coronavirus or 2019-nCoV).

No cases have been reported in Imperial County to date. Imperial County Public Health Officer, Dr. Stephen Munday, stated that Imperial County Public Health officials continue to work closely with state and federal agencies to assess for COVID-19 in our community. Additionally, our Department's strong partnership with Baja California Health officials allows us to stay informed regarding the status of COVID-19 in Mexicali as well. To date, there have been nine confirmed cases in California. Additionally, there have been no COVID-19 associated deaths in the United States.

Dr. Munday would like to remind the public, "As this situation progresses, most will encounter a lot of information related to COVID-19 on social media, television and other sources. As you seek out ways to best protect yourself and your loved ones, please consider the source of the information you're receiving. Sources such as the CDC, California Department of Public Health, and Imperial County Public Health Department are continuing to monitor the situation, are regularly updating their information, and can be relied on to provide timely and accurate information."

The Department's epidemiology staff conducts enhanced surveillance for respiratory illnesses year-round, including Severe Acute Respiratory Infection surveillance at the two local hospitals. In addition, the Department has shared information about screening patients with respiratory symptoms and documenting travel history with local hospitals, community clinics, and healthcare providers.

The Imperial County Public Health Department is recommending the following steps as best practices to prevent respiratory illness:

- Wash hands often with soap and water
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Stay home when you are sick
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

For general information about COVID-19, the public can visit the Imperial County Public Health Department website at www.icphd.org or visit the California Department of Public Health website at www.cdph.ca.gov. The public is encouraged to follow the Department's official social media platforms for the most updated information.

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