



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPDATE ON 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Suspected case tests negative for COVID-19

IMPERIAL COUNTY- Imperial County Public Health Department Officials have announced that a person under investigation by Baja California Health Officials for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has tested negative. The individual has been hospitalized in Mexicali since symptoms began and remained in isolation until the results were received.

To date, no cases have been confirmed in Imperial County and the risk of Imperial County residents being infected by COVID-19 remains low. Imperial County Public Health Officer, Dr. Stephen Munday, stated “We are pleased at the outcome of this case and would like to thank Baja California’s health officials for their ongoing communication and willingness to keep us updated throughout this investigation. Our Department will continue to work closely with state, federal and Baja California health officials to assess for COVID-19 in our community.” To date, there have been 10 cases in California. Additionally, there have been no COVID-19 associated deaths in the United States.

Dr. Munday encourages residents “to share facts, not fear by staying informed with timely and accurate information. Sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health, and Imperial County Public Health 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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