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UPDATE FOR PARENTS

This is a constantly evolving situation; more information will be distributed as it is available. For the most up to date information, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

On February 26, 2020, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the first possible case of transmission of novel coronavirus, referred to as COVID-19, in California without any previously known exposure or travel history (referred to as possible community transmission). The Merced County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) has been responding to COVID-19 since the outbreak was initially reported out of Wuhan, China and continues to closely monitor the situation.

Merced County continues to report NO CASES. As of February 28, 2020, all nine Merced County returning travelers have been cleared from their isolation period.

While this strain of Coronavirus is new, coronaviruses are very common, and in fact represent one group of viruses responsible for the common cold. Over 85% of people who are infected with COVID-19 have mild or no symptoms, and do not require hospitalization. Please see attached FAQ for more information. The flu is circulating, and in fact, is a greater threat to Merced County (and California as a whole) than COVID-19. To date, there have been 445 deaths from the flu in California this year, and zero deaths from COVID-19 in California. California has reported a total of 16 local cases of COVID-19.

As with any virus, during the flu season, the Public Health Department reminds you there are a number of steps you can take to protect your health and your family:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Keep children home from school if they are sick with symptoms such as fever and cough.

For further information on COVID-19, please refer to the following websites:

<http://countyofmerced.com/3350/Coronavirus>

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

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