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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Officer COVID-19 Update

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Amador County Health Officer

Amador County Public Health launched another COVID-19 Contact Investigation yesterday. This new confirmed positive case occurred in a 30 year-old male from Southern California who was working as a contractor for an essential business in Amador County when he became ill. He had been living in Pioneer, CA for more than a month while on this work assignment before symptoms began, and had not traveled outside Amador County during that time. No exposure to a known case had occurred. This has been determined to be another case of community transmission. This case is currently not hospitalized, and is isolated in another county under the care of his family.

Why COVID-19 Cases are reported by County of Permanent Residence

A uniform system has been established in California that assigns all confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 to the county that is listed as the person's address on the laboratory report, regardless of where they were living when they were exposed to or got sick from the illness. This is to prevent the possibility of inaccurate/conflicting counting of cases, which has been an issue in other states.

Amador County Public Health will keep our community informed whenever contact tracing for a case impacts Amador, whether that case is included in our total case count tally or not.

Lab Testing – Serology Antibody Tests

Antibody tests are now being offered by commercial laboratories, but not all have been issued the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA. The manufacturer of the antibody test that [Quest Laboratory](#) uses has applied for, but has not yet been issued, an EUA for its immunoassay test.

Quest has posted the following [disclaimer](#):

“ This test has not been reviewed by the FDA. Negative results do not rule out SARS-CoV-2 infection, particularly in those who have been in contact with the virus. Follow-up testing with a molecular diagnostic should be considered to rule out infection in these individuals. Results from antibody testing should not be used as the sole basis to diagnose or exclude SARS-CoV-2 infection or to inform infection status. Positive results may be due to past or present infection with non-SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus strains, such as coronavirus HKU1, NL63, OC43, or 229E.”*

It is important to note that all point-of-care antibody tests, where the patient receives the result at the time of visit, are considered screening tests only and must be confirmed by a blood draw and testing in a laboratory setting. It is important to be aware that the relationship between antibody presence and immunity is not currently known.

Additionally, the Amador Health Officer has requested that California consider setting up an [Optum Serve](#) or [Project Baseline by Verily](#) COVID-19 testing site in Amador County.

Surge Planning Capacity

The Sleep Train Arena alternate care site (ACS) opened this week to accept overflow COVID-19 patients from hospitals and nursing homes. At first, the authorized area for this ACS did not include Amador County, but the Amador Health Officer made the case to the State to include our community. Yesterday Amador County was informed that we may refer patients. The Health Officer and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) are working on procedures for EMS transport with Mountain Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency (MVEMSA).

WellSpace Health Amador COVID-19 Care Center

WellSpace Health's Amador Community Health Center has opened a COVID-19 Care Center at 11333 Prospect Drive in Jackson. It is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Call 209-268-0560 for same-day visit. The visit includes an evaluation by a health care provider, and if it is deemed medically necessary, based on CDC guidance, the care center will test for COVID-19.

Food Drive for Interfaith Food Bank - April 28 & 29, 2020

The upcoming Food Drive is being organized by an essential workforce (justice & law enforcement) to meet the essential need of feeding the hungry.

Public Health and the EOC Safety Officer are advising the event organizers about precautions and measures to keep the Food Drive event safe and in compliance with social distancing and the Stay-at-Home Order. They will be mirroring the precautions already implemented by the Food Bank when they distribute food.

Reminder for the Public: this is a drive-through, drop off collection event for non-perishable food items, and NO GATHERING will be allowed. There will be no parking and no getting out of the car at the courthouse drop-off site. Please maintain six-foot physical distancing and do not gather if dropping off at one of the other community donation locations.