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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Amador COVID-19 Cases Double in December

Amador County, CA – Since the beginning of December, COVID-19 cases in Amador residents have more than doubled. On December 1st the total positive case count was under 500. In less than a month the cases have jumped to over 1,000. Today, Amador County Public Health reports 109 new cases of COVID-19 since last Tuesday's update, bringing the total laboratory confirmed case count to 1,064. The new cases include 50 males and 59 females, 13 children under the age of 18, 50 aged 18-49, 22 aged 50-64, 24 over 65 years of age; 39 residing in Ione, 30 living in Jackson, 10 in Pine Grove, 8 in Pioneer, 9 in Plymouth/surrounding areas, and 13 residing in Sutter Creek/Amador City. Twenty-one cases, including Mule Creek State Prison (MCSP) inmates, are currently hospitalized. Amador Public Health also confirms 1 new death due to COVID-19 this week. The individual who passed was a female in her 80s.

Amador County has received Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. The initial supply is very limited. The vaccine is to be administered in phases according to risk. Sutter Amador Hospital and Amador County Public Health have started vaccinations for front-line health care workers and Phase 1 priority populations following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) vaccine plan. Visit California's Vaccinate All 58 website for more details. As more vaccine becomes available, additional priority groups will be notified and offered the vaccine as Amador moves through the phases and tiers of the allocation guidelines.

The Regional Stay-at-Home Order, which includes Amador County, remains in effect. It was activated 11:59 PM Thursday, December 10, 2020, and will remain in effect for a minimum of 3 weeks from that date. Projected Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity will be reassessed on a weekly basis at that time. More information on the order and regional ICU capacity is updated daily on the state website: About COVID-19 Restrictions.

As we look to New Year's Eve it is vital to recognize that new cases and hospital admissions continue to rise in Amador and statewide. Everyone is at risk for COVID-19 and celebrating the New Year should be done as safely as possible. Remember that older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness and death. Practice consistent prevention measures to help limit the spread of COVID-19: wear face coverings, practice social distancing, and ensure frequent hand hygiene. Avoid mixing with others outside your household. Persons over age 65 and those with chronic health conditions that put them at higher risk for severe COVID-19 are encouraged to stay home as much as possible. Stay home if you are sick even with mild symptoms. If you have been directed to isolate or quarantine, please follow all instructions.

To view current Amador County COVID-19 statistics, please visit the Amador COVID-19 website: https://www.amadorgov.org/services/covid-19. Mule Creek State Prison inmate cases are not included in the Amador County COVID-19 totals.