



Edward D. Hill
Director

Milton Teske, M.D.
Health Officer

To promote and protect the health and well-being of Kings County residents through education, prevention, and intervention.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: May 20, 2020

Contact: Kings County Department of Public Health, 559-852-4991
EMAIL: KCDPH.PIO@co.kings.ca.us

Health Officials Confirm COVID-19 Outbreak at Avenal State Prison

HANFORD, CA - The Kings County Department of Public Health (KCDPH) has confirmed an outbreak of Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) at Avenal State Prison. Since the outbreak started, a total of 25 inmates and seven staff members have tested positive and have been isolated. Health officials are working with the Prison, the Chief Medical Officer of the California Department of Corrections and the California Department of Public Health to contain the spread of the virus. Efforts are underway to test and isolate other individuals that may have been exposed to the virus. A total of 41 new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed today, including 27 new cases related to the prison outbreak.

KCDPH has determined that 25 out of the 41 new cases contracted the disease through close contact with a confirmed case. The exposure of the remaining 16 new cases is still under investigation. Of the total active cases, nine are being treated in isolation, and all other cases have been quarantined. KCDPH has also identified 35 previously confirmed cases that have fully recovered from the disease.

The below list depicts the current situation in Kings County:

- Total Cases: 457
 - 3 (Travel Related)
 - 260 (Close Contact)
 - 47 (Community Transmission)
 - 147 (Under Investigation)
- Total Deaths: 2
- Recovered: 170

KCDPH is currently conducting communicable disease investigations to identify any persons who may have had close personal contact with these individuals, including any friends, family members, or health care professionals, to assess and monitor them for signs and symptoms of illness. Due to privacy laws, no specific information regarding any of the 457 cases can be shared with the public.

Kings County residents are encouraged to continue following the recommendations from the California Department of Public Health, the Centers of Disease Control, and the KCDPH to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Kings County and protect themselves and others from respiratory illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unclean hands.
- Stay in your home as much as possible. The only exceptions should be for getting food and/or necessary household supplies, medications and medical treatments.
- Wear a face mask or covering, and practice social distancing of at least six feet if it is necessary to leave your home.

- Limit close contact, like kissing and sharing cups or utensils, with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, or your elbow.

Visit www.kingscovidinfo.com for current information and guidance.