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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: May 22, 2020

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**Hanford, CA** – The Kings County Department of Public Health (KCDPH) has partnered with Alma's Flea Market in Hanford to provide access to free COVID-19 testing for up to 150 Kings County residents. As businesses begin to plan to safely reopen, Alma's Flea Market has agreed to allow the KCDPH to set up a testing site in the parking lot this upcoming Memorial Day, May 25, 2020. Testing will be available starting at 8:00 AM and is open to everyone including those that are uninsured or undocumented. This will be the first time the flea market will be open to the public since the State declared an emergency shutting down all non-essential businesses. The State's approval earlier this week of the County's variance attestation, which indicates that the County has met the State's readiness criteria, allows for an expanded set of businesses to open with modifications, including shopping malls and swap meets.

"Alma's Flea Market has been an integral part of the community for over 50 years and we are happy and excited to be able to open up again and welcome back vendors and shoppers," said Charlene Jespersen, owner and operator. "We appreciate the importance of preventing the spread of COVID-19 and are implementing numerous measures to minimize the risk to everyone. We feel that the testing event will be a great resource for the community, and it will be conveniently placed to reach as many residents as possible."

Alma's Flea Market has a long history of collaborating with KCDPH and has provided use of its grounds for flu clinic events and public health exercises in the past. The site was selected to run the COVID-19 community testing event due to the flea market's long-standing reputation for serving the community, as well as the fact that the market will open on a holiday when there is a usual increase of foot traffic.

"Partnering with Alma's Flea Market to run a COVID-19 community testing event on Memorial Day will allow public health nurses access to a large number of individuals that might otherwise go untested," said Edward Hill, Director of Kings County Department of Public Health. "It is crucial that as many people as possible are tested for the virus, to prevent future outbreaks and slow the spread."

Mr. Hill also stated that it is important for everyone to continue following social distancing and hygiene guidelines, and that there are no measures any business can take to completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 infections. "The most effective way to avoid COVID-19 is still to avoid any unnecessary travel and to remain in your home as much as possible. Though we have made some progress in testing efforts and tracing contacts of infected individuals, a vaccine has not been developed and the virus can still be deadly for vulnerable members of our community."

The free COVID-19 community testing event will be held on Memorial Day, Monday May 25<sup>th</sup> at Alma's Flea Market parking lot starting at 8:00 AM and will be limited to the first 150 individuals. All Kings County residents are eligible to be tested including those that are uninsured or undocumented.