# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN THE TIME OF COVID

#### THE GOAL:

Stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

This virus is spread almost exclusively through respiratory droplets when people talk, cough or sneeze.

### The "Big Picture"

KEEP YOUR FLUIDS TO YOURSELF

KEEP OTHER PEOPLE'S FLUIDS OUT OF YOURSELF



### IT IS REAL

More than 22,000 cases in Fresno County

226 Deaths

### SYMPTOMS

#### **Most Common**

- Low Grade Fever
- Cough Sore Throat
- Runny Nose
- Shortness Of Breath
- Chills
- Headache
- Muscle Aches

#### **Additional Symptoms**

- Vomiting or Nausea
- Abdominal Pain
- Diarrhea
- Loss of taste or smell



### SYMPTOMATIC

exhibiting or involving symptoms

### **ASYMPTOMATIC**

Presenting no symptoms of the disease

### ISOLATION

The separation of patients with a contagious disease from people who are not sick

### QUARANTINE

The separation of people who have been exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

### **CLOSE CONTACT**

A person is a "close contact" when they have been:

- -within 6 feet or less
- for 15 minutes or more
- -while the COVID positive person was unmasked
- Of a person that has the COVID-19 Virus

### **CONTACT TRACING**

One of the most powerful tools to prevent the spread of an infectious disease.

### Contact tracing is:

- -identifying people who have an infectious disease and their contacts (people who may have been exposed)
- working with them to interrupt disease transmission
- For COVID-19, this includes asking infected people to isolate and contacts to quarantine at home.

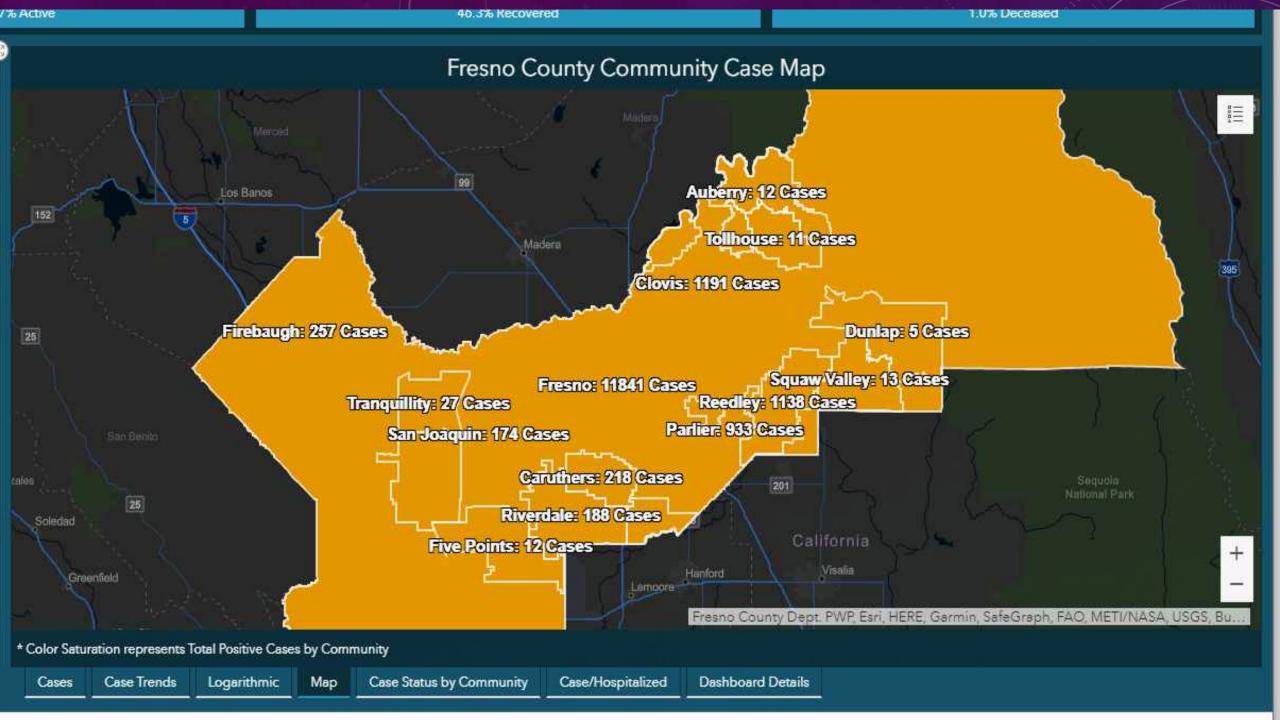
### HEALTH DEPARTMENT TEAMS

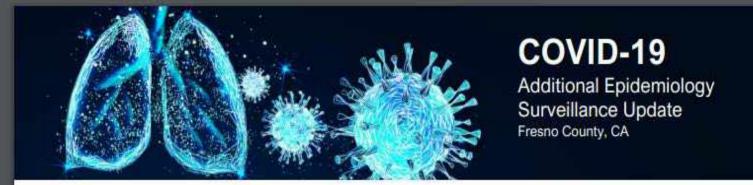
Medical Investigation Team – Contacts COVID-19 positive people and issues isolation orders. Collects close contact information and sends them to the Contact Tracing team

<u>Contact Tracing Team</u> – Communicates close contacts of positive cases and issues Quarantine orders.

Closure Plasma Team – Contacts positive cases towards the end of their illness to ask for plasma donations when they've recovered to give to very ill patients.

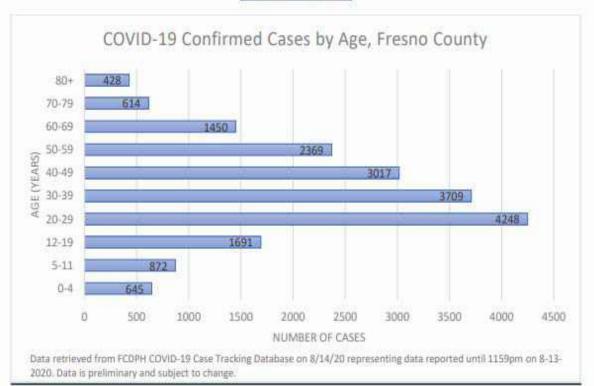






-All reported numbers are preliminary and subject to change based on further investigation-

COVID-19 by Age



### WHAT DO YOU DO WITH A SICK EMPLOYEE?

Businesses should be <u>screening employees</u> for symptoms as they get to work. If an employee reporting symptoms consistent with COVID when they arrive <u>should not enter the facility.</u> Send them home.

If an employee gets sick during their shift and the symptoms are consistent with COVID send them home to monitor symptoms. Do not have them finish their shift.

If symptoms persist or worsen employee should call their doctor.

Sick people should not be out in the community.

### **TESTING FOR COVID-19**

- Testing is now widely available but there is a lag between taking a test and getting results.
- Labs in California are backed up and have been given State orders to give priority to high risk situations.
- "Rapid Tests" are still in the process of being developed and validated by the California Department of Public Health.

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE GETS TESTED FOR COVID?

That person is to isolate at home until results are received.

### WHAT IF THE TEST IS NEGATIVE?

- Don't assume that the person does not have the disease.
- False negatives exist
- A test is like a picture... it tells you that at the moment of getting tested, that person did not have the disease. They could have been exposed five minutes after being tested.
- Continue to wear a mask and social distance

# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEIR TEST COMES BACK POSITIVE?

- ✓ They must stay home and isolate
- ✓ If they have symptoms, they must isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms or one day (24 hours) have no fever and vast improvement in all other symptoms.

  (without the use of medications), whichever is longer
- ✓ If they have not developed symptoms, they must <u>isolate</u> for 10 days from the date of first positive sample collection.

### WHAT WILL THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT DO?

 The MIT team will call them to collect data, close contact information, and issue an isolation order.

 They are told to inform their employer that they are positive.

Some employers will be contacted by our team



#### County of Fresno

RE: Guidance for Health Officer Order for COVID-19 Isolation

Dear Patient,

You have been diagnosed with COVID-19 based on your symptoms or a laboratory test. To help control the spread of the disease and protect the health of our community, the Fresno County Health Officer is requiring you to isolate yourself. Isolation is the separation of patients with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. This means you must:

- · Stay at home except to get necessary medical care
- Self-monitor your symptoms and call your healthcare provider if your symptoms worsen
- · Prohibit visitors who do not have an essential need to be in the home

If you have symptoms, you must do this for *at least 10 days* after your symptoms began with at least the last *3 days* (72 hours) with symptom resolution. Symptom resolution means you have recovered from fever without the use of medications and your respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) have improved. If you have not developed symptoms (asymptomatic), you must isolate yourself for *10 days* from the date of your first positive sample collection.

#### Notify Your Close Contacts

You must also notify people you have had close contact with to quarantine themselves. Quarantine is used to prevent people who may become sick after they have been exposed to a contagious disease from spreading the disease to others. Close contact is defined as contact with an individual who is positive with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or longer and within 6 feet while the positive person is unmasked.

Notify all people you were in close contact with during the 2 days before you developed symptoms to quarantine themselves for 14 days after their last contact with you. Your close contacts must also stay at home except to perform essential tasks with a mask, and they must prohibit visitors who do not have an essential need to be in the home. For more information on quarantine, visit <a href="https://www.fcdph.org/covid19orders">www.fcdph.org/covid19orders</a>.

#### Protect Your Household

You should isolate yourself from your family or household members as much as possible. If available, you should use a separate bedroom and bathroom. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol frequently to prevent spreading germs to your healthy household members. Your household members should clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, and take

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### ISOLATION ORDER

- Legal order issued by the Fresno County Health
   Officer
- Stay at home except for necessary medical care
- Monitor symptoms and call your doctor if they get worse
- Prohibit visitors who do not have an essential need to be in the home

### WHAT IF SOMEONE IS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH A PERSON WHO IS POSITIVE FOR COVID -19?

- They are issued a legal quarantine order.
- This quarantine will last for <u>14 days from the date of last known</u> <u>contact</u> with a person that is positive for COVID-19 or 14 days after a person living in their home with COVID-19 has recovered.
- Stay at home except for essential tasks such as getting necessary medical care or buying groceries
- If they must leave your home, they must wear a mask at all times
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms including fever, cough and shortness of breath
- Prohibit visitors who do not have an essential need to be in the home

# A NEGATIVE TEST RESULT DOES NOT MEAN THAT A PERSON CAN LEAVE QUARANTINE.

### QUARANTINE MUST CONTINUE EVEN IF THE PERSON GETS A NEGATIVE TEST RESULT.

The close contact must stay in quarantine for 14 days after the last time they were in close contact with a positive COVID individual. That means they quarantine for 14 days after symptoms resolve in the <u>last person</u> in their home who got sick.

### ANYONE UNDER LEGAL ISOLATION OR QUARANTINE SHOULD NOT BE AT WORK OR **OUT IN THE COMMUNITY**

### WHAT DO YOU DO IF AN EMPLOYEE TESTS POSITIVE?

Don't Panic but do act quickly.

- Protect your sick employee.
- Protect their family.
- Protect your other employees.
- Protect your business.
- Protect the community.

### IDENTIFY CLOSE CONTACTS IN YOUR BUSINESS

- Determine the last day that the infected employee worked.
- If they are symptomatic and not at work 48 hours before symptoms began, there were no close contacts at work.
- If they are asymptomatic and were not at work 48 hours before a positive test was taken, there were no close contacts at work

# IF THE INFECTED PERSON WAS AT WORK <u>48-HOURS BEFORE THE</u> ONSET OF SYMPTOMS OR <u>BEFORE THE POSITIVE TEST</u> WAS TAKEN:

- Was the employee wearing a mask covering their mouth and nose during the entire time they were at the facility? (including breaks/lunch)? Then there were no close contacts at work.
- Did the employee spend 15 minutes or more within 6 feet of another employee without being fully masked? If not, then there were no close contacts at work.
- Any person that was within 6 feet of the infected individual for 15 minutes without a mask on is considered a close contact and must be placed in quarantine for 14 days.

### DO YOU NEED TO CLEAN/SANITIZE YOUR HOUSE OR BUSINESS?

 Increase cleaning/sanitizing frequency of <u>common</u> touch areas: door handles, phones, counter tops, tools utensils, etc.

Clean like your life depended on it

Remember the big picture – get rid of the fluids! Any surface that may have fluids from someone resting on them, should be cleaned.



#### DO YOU NEED TO CLOSE TO THE PUBLIC?

### You do not necessarily need to close your facility.

The decision to remain open is yours to make.

Some of the things businesses have done when they had a COVID-19 positive employee:

- closed for three days of deep cleaning / sanitizing
- overnight deep cleaning/sanitizing
- increased cleaning/sanitizing

Do all that you possibly can to make sure that your facility does not become a COVID-19 "Hot Spot"

# IS THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT REQUIRING ONE OR TWO NEGATIVE TEST RESULTS BEFORE RETURNING TO WORK?

No, we are not requiring this. Legal health officer orders are given to Isolated and quarantined people. When they meet the criteria outlined in the order, their isolation/quarantine is complete.

 A facility may establish stricter requirements for coming back to work. The criteria from the Health Department is the minimum.

# DO YOU NEED TO INFORM EMPLOYEES OF COVID POSITIVE COWORKERS?

July 18 – CDPH:

"Employers should notify all employees who were potentially exposed to the individuals with COVID-19."

#### **Important note:**

Employers must maintain confidentiality of employees with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection when communicating with other employees

When you notify employees you only need to state that an employee tested positive.

Do not say "Tom has COVID". Personal Health information is protected information and you can get in serious legal trouble for making it public

### DO YOU NEED TO NOTIFY YOUR CUSTOMERS?

This is not required at this time.

As long as your employees were following the guidelines to protect customers from contagion with COVID-19, none of them should qualify as close contacts.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19?

Establish a written protocol / procedures to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in your business.

Go over protocol with employees constantly, enforce protocol.

## EDUCATION, PRE-SCREEN, MASKING, HAND WASHING, SANITIZING, DISTANCING

Educate employees: seriousness of disease, need to protect selves when not at work.... "Its not just you, it is your family, your co-workers, friends, and the customers you serve that you are protecting"

<u>Pre-screen employees</u> before they enter facility – temp check, interview re: symptoms, check in sheet that employee signs with temp.

<u>Increased hand washing</u> – maybe set a timer – everyone wash when it goes off – maintain sinks stocked

Masking – at all times, including breaks and lunch unless actively eating or drinking

### The importance of masking: remember, its all about the fluids

### How **NOT** to Wear a Mask "The Sniffer" "The Escape Hatch" "The Earring" "The Stache" "The Neckbeard" "The Nose Plug"



### MORE WAYS TO LIMIT SPREAD

Continuously clean and sanitize

Space employees 6 feet apart / install separators

Avoid congregating: Staggering breaks and lunches

Check for employee behaviors that could cause spread

### WHEN WOULD THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTACT ME?

#### If an employee tests positive for Covid,

- : The Medical Investigation Team may call to check for close contacts.
- : If your facility holds a permit to operate from the Health
  Department an inspector will most likely be contacting you to
  discuss the procedures and protocols in use to avoid the spread of
  COVID-19.

### If the Health Department receives complaints from the public about your facility;

: Someone from the department will call to talk with you about the situation and may visit your facility to verify conditions.

### POSSIBLE SOURCES OF CONFUSION:

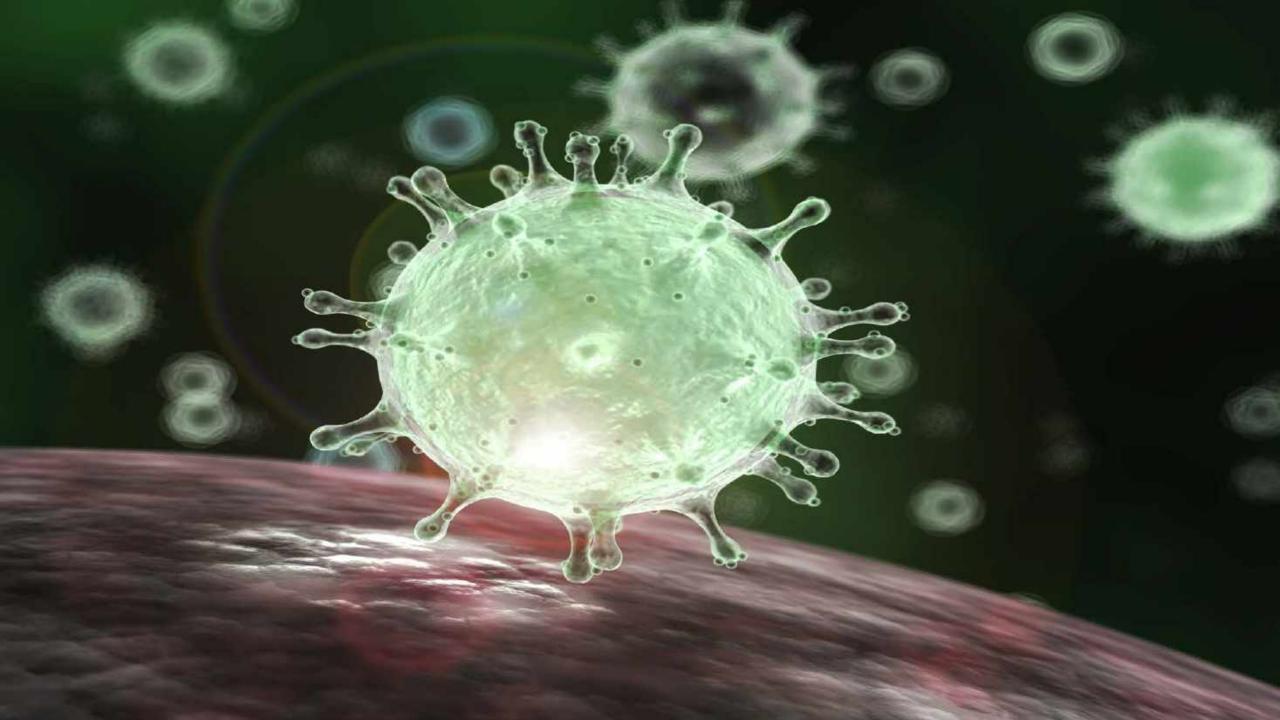
- Some people are saying that the Health Department requires negative tests to return to work. We do not.
- Some doctor's offices are telling patients to stay home for 14 days after a positive test.
  - This is not a Health Department requirement. A health care provider may believe that a specific patient needs additional time at home.



Fresno County has been put on a watch list by the state because it is a "hot spot" for COVID-19

If we want to get back to "business as usual", we have to reduce the numbers of people getting infected

If we all would follow the simple guidelines, that number would drop



### CAN I CALL IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

OF COURSE YOU CAN!
COVID General Info Line 600-INFO
Environmental Health 600-3357