



P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 5, 2020

Contact: Tim Mapes – Community Education Specialist (530) 245-6863

Patients in Shasta County being tested for COVID-19

The Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is working with local medical providers to test two patients who met the criteria for testing for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Both individuals are receiving the appropriate level of medical care for their specific situations. These tests are the first of likely more tests that will occur should patients meet the criteria of risk, and HHSA has a thorough response plan.

In each case, while preliminary lab results are pending, public health officials work with patients and medical providers to exercise necessary precautions to limit the risk to the public. HHSA will notify the public of any positive test results for COVID-19.

At this time, our recommendation to the public is to continue to take precautions to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses in public places, such as workplaces and schools.

Encourage those who are sick to stay home:

- The symptoms of acute respiratory illness are cough, runny nose, congestion, sore throat, body aches, fatigue and fever (100.4° F or 37.8° C). Those with symptoms are recommended to stay home and not come to work or school until they are free of symptoms and fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).

Emphasize respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene:

- Wash hands often with soap and warm water. If that is not possible, clean hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol.
- Visit the CDC's [coughing and sneezing etiquette](#) and [clean hands webpage](#) for more information.

Perform routine environmental cleaning of public places:

- Clean all frequently touched surfaces, such as countertops, doorknobs, remote controls, desk and keyboards. Use regular cleaning agents for these areas and follow the label directions. Or, provide disposable wipes so that surfaces can be wiped down before each use.
- Provide tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles.
- Place posters in visible areas that encourage people to stay home when sick, use cough and sneeze etiquette, and practice hand hygiene. Printable posters in English and Spanish can be found [here](#).
- No additional disinfection beyond routine cleaning is recommended at this time.

For updated information, please visit the [HHSA page dedicated to Coronavirus](#).