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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

NEWS RELEASE
Public Health

CONTACT:
Lana Culp
Public Health Information Officer
(909) 387-9147
Lana.Culp@dph.sbcounty.gov

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Health Officer orders cancellation of large gatherings; no local cases in County

In an effort to protect the public from any possible spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), on Thursday, the County's Acting Health Officer ordered the immediate cancellation or postponement of gatherings of more than 250 people within the county until further notice. No cases have been reported in San Bernardino County.

"The cancellation or postponement of large gatherings is a precautionary measure to protect our communities from the possible spread of COVID-19," said Dr. Erin Gustafson, Acting Health Officer. "This order is not to alarm people. I strongly urge the public to remain calm and continue to clean your hands often with soap and water. Avoid close contact with people who are sick and stay home if you are sick. We continue to be actively engaged with state and federal health officials to ensure our residents remain safe and healthy."

On Tuesday, the County Acting Health Officer and the Board of Supervisors declared a local health emergency to help ensure county government and the public are prepared for the possibility that COVID-19 will appear within the county.

As of March 13, 2020, there are a total of 247 positive cases and five deaths in California (including one non-California resident; 24 cases are from repatriation flights. The other 223 confirmed cases include 65 that are travel related, 52 due to person-to-person transmission, 56 are community acquired and 50 are from unknown sources. The health risk from COVID-19 to the general public in San Bernardino County remains low at this time.

As with any virus, especially during the cold and flu season, there are a number of steps you can take to protect your health and those around you:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, including after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using regular household cleaning spray or wipes.
- If someone does become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough, they should stay away from work, school or other people to avoid spreading illness and seek assistance from their healthcare provider if symptoms become severe.
- N95 masks are **not** recommended outside a healthcare setting. Surgical masks can be worn by sick.

Please visit the DPH COVID-19 webpage at wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/coronavirus for more information. Information is updated as soon as it is made available. For general inquiries regarding COVID-19, email coronavirus@dph.sbcounty.gov. For healthcare providers, call (800) 722-4794.