Rigoberto Vargas, MPH

Director

A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency

Robert Levin, MD Health Officer/Medical Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ventura County Public Health Press Release

Contact: Ashley Bautista, Public Information Officer, 805-654-2640

March 11, 2020

## **Ventura County Public Health COVID-19 Update**

2<sup>nd</sup> presumptive positive case reported Individuals at higher risk of severe illness urged to take precautions

Ventura, CA – A second travel related COVID-19 case has been reported in Ventura County. The traveler returned from a trip to Italy, became symptomatic and sought medical attention. The testing was completed by a health care provider in Los Angeles County. The traveler is under home quarantine in Ventura County. The test is presumptive until it is confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At this time, the Ventura County Public Health Lab has conducted 77 COVID-19 tests. There is 1 positive, travel related, case of COVID-19 in Ventura County and now 1 presumptive positive travel related case. There are 25 travelers on home quarantine. There are no confirmed cases of person-to-person transmission in Ventura County.

Ventura County Public Health is encouraging all community members who are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 to take actions to reduce their risk. Older adults, individuals with compromised immune systems, and individuals who have serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer or lung disease are encouraged to practice social distancing. Such individuals are encouraged to avoid crowded settings, avoid people who are sick and avoid hugging or shaking hands.

Preventive actions for all community members include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or having been in a public place.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick and stay away from large gatherings and crowds.

If you feel sick, please contact your doctor first before seeking medical care so that appropriate precautions can be taken. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Your personal doctor can answer questions about your health and circumstances.

Ventura County Public Health continues to urge agencies, businesses, school districts, organizations and health care providers throughout the County to prepare for social distancing.

The California Department of Public Health has state guidance on how to prepare and protect community members from COVID-19 at the following <u>link</u>. Also, found at <u>www.cdph.ca.gov</u>.

## This includes guidance for:

- Health care facilities, including long-term care facilities
- Community care facilities, including assisted living facilities and child care
- Schools and institutions of higher education
- Event organizers
- First responders, including paramedics and EMTs
- Employers, health care workers and workers in general industry
- Health care plans
- Home cleaning with COVID-19 positive individuals
- Guidance for Using Disinfectants at Schools and Child Cares
- Laboratories
- Health care facilities from Cal/OSHA

Stay informed on local information at <a href="https://www.vcemergency.com">www.vcemergency.com</a>.

###