



SARA BOSSE
Public Health Director

SIMON PAUL, M.D.
Health Officer

Video Transcript: Stay the Course (4-9-2020)

Good afternoon.

If you've been monitoring our website or Facebook page through the COVID-19 crisis, you'll notice that we have been doing our best to keep you informed with accurate information related to cases while protecting the privacy of individuals who have tested positive. On a daily basis, we report the total number of cases including any new positives and the number of recovered or deceased.

From our first case which was confirmed on March 7th, we have seen a swift increase to 30 cases. Over the past four days, we have reported no NEW cases leading many people to wonder what that means.

No new cases is always good news. The staff of our Emergency Operations Center have relished the feeling of relief and hope in the reprieve of the last few days.

I am recording this message today to share a few important things:

We want to acknowledge what many of you already know. That no new confirmed cases does not mean that COVID-19 is not present in our community.

- We currently have 20 active cases and are currently monitoring 77 people.

I want to address the concerns that many of you have expressed around testing. There is a very limited supply of testing available in Madera and nationwide. We are doing all we can to advocate for our fair share of testing for Madera County. In lieu of available tests we have taken important measures to slow the spread while using our tests wisely:

- We have put strict criteria in place for who can be tested and are prioritizing testing for contact investigation, healthcare workers and first responders, and vulnerable populations.
- On March 19th, a Health Officer Order was issued to help us monitor, test and treat all illnesses that may be COVID-19. We call them Febrile Respiratory Illness or FRI. FRI is a way of describing the collection of symptoms that may be COVID-19 – a fever, a new or worsening cough, and new or worsening shortness of breath. This Health Officer Order has three components:



SARA BOSSE
Public Health Director

SIMON PAUL, M.D.
Health Officer

- a. One – providers must report to us on a daily basis anyone who comes in their office exhibiting signs of FRI. Providers are also empowered to place individuals with FRI into isolation until they have been free of symptoms long enough to meet CDC guidelines for recovery.
- b. Two – businesses are required to screen employees on a daily basis for those same FRI symptoms and send sick employees home to isolate until they have been free of symptoms long enough to meet CDC guidelines for recovery.
- c. Three – Madera County residents are required to screen themselves daily for FRI symptoms and self-isolate if sick.

Most importantly we want to commend the steps you have taken so far in slowing the spread! We recognize that this is a difficult time and many people have had to cancel or postpone significant life events including birthdays, weddings, and funerals; businesses have had to temporarily close; and social gatherings have had to cease. We thank you for doing your part and urge you to STAY the COURSE.

What does this mean for you: Based on the best models and what we have seen in other communities, we expect we have not yet reached the peak of our cases. Our advice remains the same:

- Stay home. The most important piece of advice we can offer is to stay home and only go out for essential business. We encourage you to wear a face covering when you do go out. You can find more information about mask and face coverings on our site.
- Stay Well: self-monitor for symptoms including fever, sore throat, and new or worsening cough on a daily basis. And stay home from work if you are sick. Remember to wash your hands, cover your cough, and sanitize surfaces.
- Stay connected: take care of yourself by occasionally disconnecting from the news and social media; check in on others; and get information from reliable sources.

What we are doing is working and it is critical that we continue to STAY THE COURSE: Stay home. Stay Well. And Stay Connected.

