



City of Barstow and Barstow Fire Protection District

DATE: March 22, 2020
TO: Immediate Release
FROM: Nikki Salas, Ed. D
City Manager
SUBJECT: **COVID-19 PRESS RELEASE**

Barstow Community Hospital has confirmed one positive case of COVID-19 being treated at the facility.

The number of reported cases in San Bernardino County continues to rise as testing becomes more readily available. The County reported its first case on Sunday, March 15.

On March 19, California Governor Gavin Newsom and the State Public Health Officer issued a statewide stay-at-home order with exceptions for essential tasks and services. See details here: <http://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs>.

The San Bernardino County reports:

“Complying with public health orders is essential to our continued health and safety,” said Acting County Health Officer Dr. Erin Gustafson. “These orders are not intended to spark panic, but rather reduce the spread of infection and minimize the number of people who get sick at any one time to keep our healthcare system functioning.”

“There is a fairly even distribution of cases throughout our county. No one should assume the virus is not present in their community. We must presume and behave as if the virus is everywhere,” Dr. Gustafson said.

To help slow the spread of the virus, San Bernardino County “ordered the cancellation of gatherings of any number of people within the county.” The order also requires the “closing of all movie theatres, gyms, health clubs, bars, adult entertainment establishments, and other businesses that serve alcohol but do not serve food.”

If you are feeling sick, the California Department of Public Health recommends the following:
CALL AHEAD: If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, call your health care provider before seeking medical care so that appropriate precautions can be taken.

If you have a true emergency, please call 9-1-1. If you call emergency services for any reason and have flu-like symptoms, please notify dispatch that you are ill and, if possible, please put on a facemask before emergency services arrive. Please do not put your first responders at risk.

For more information regarding the City of Barstow’s response to the COVID-19 crisis and more resources, please visit www.BarstowCA.org or call (760) 256-3531.