FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 24, 2020

2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Update

FRESNO, CA- The Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) is working with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to learn more about a novel (new) coronavirus that is causing an outbreak of pneumonia illness in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. This outbreak began in early December 2019 and continues to expand in scope and magnitude.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing respiratory illness in people and others that circulate mostly among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Common symptoms in an infected person include a fever, cough and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. "Since there are many coronaviruses and they are routinely found in those with the common cold, it is not unusual to detect one or several strains during routine testing. However, these strains are not the same as the novel 2019-nCoV strain, which can only be detected by the CDC laboratory at this time," says Dr. Vohra, Fresno County Interim Health Officer.

Since December 2019, Chinese authorities preliminarily identified over 800 human infections, including 25 deaths, associated with this novel (new) coronavirus in an outbreak of pneumonia in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. As of January 23, 2020, no cases have been identified in Fresno County or California.

The opportunity below has been scheduled to conduct interviews and collect soundbites from Fresno County Public Health Officials. Public Health will continue to provide updates to media and work with local healthcare providers as the situation evolves.

Media Availability

WHAT: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Update
WHERE: Fresno County Department of Public Health
1221 Fulton Street
Fresno, CA 93721
WHEN: Friday, January 23, 2020
TIME: 3:00pm – 3:30pm (Media check-in)
3:30pm – 4:00pm (B-roll and interviews)
WHO: Rais Vohra, MD, Interim Health Officer, Fresno County
Leticia Berber, Health Educator, Community Health, FCDPH (Spanish)
Valerie Martinez, Health Education Specialist, Community Health, FCDPH (Spanish)


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