

COVID-19

County Data Monitoring

Step 2: Targeted Engagement with CDPH

County Data Chart

In partnership, CDPH will work with Local Health Departments to set up strategy calls and provide technical assistance. The following areas will be discussed:

- Identify the drivers of the changing situation and whether it is increasing confirmed cases, uptick in hospitalizations and ICU patients, outbreaks in congregate settings such as skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) or jails/prisons, or community transmissions in settings such as churches, workplaces, or agriculture, and amongst other specific populations experiencing disease disproportionately.
- Review of the strategies already in place by the Local Health Department and community to address each of the areas of concern, including locally defined plans and protocols published through variance attestations.
- Discuss additional steps that should be taken in various environments such as more aggressive testing strategies, any issues with contact tracing, need for healthcare resources or infection control strategies.
- Discuss issues that may develop as a result of currently identified issues, e.g. additional SNF or community outbreaks leading to a healthcare surge.
- Discuss any gaps in resources and clear articulation of any additional roles for the state and/or local jurisdiction. Resource gaps should include commodities such as personal protective equipment (PPE), testing supplies, or other consumables.
- Review of business sectors that are open and whether any other state agencies may be needed in the discussion given their ownership of the facility or role in regulating that business sector.
- Review of Local Containment Triggers and Consideration of renewing non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI).

The state will work closely with Local Health Departments to identify action steps and timelines for addressing issues that impact indicators of concern. Counties currently being monitored at this step, the drivers of their situation, and key action steps identified are below:

- **Contra Costa County (has variance)** is experiencing an increase in hospitalizations. County reports this is in parallel to a rise in community transmission as residents move away from shelter in place and resume more normal routines. Key actions to address the increase include 1) working with communities and community-based organizations to share messaging about face coverings and other prevention techniques along with the importance of testing, 2) continue working with hospital and health systems to monitor and understand hospitalizations and prepare for the surge, 3) continue to provide infection prevention expertise to assist skilled nursing facilities and other congregate care facilities on infection control practices and proper use of PPE, and 4) educate the community about the importance of working with the Health Department on contact tracing to prevent spread to friends and loved ones.

Fresno County (has variance) is experiencing elevated disease transmission. A driver of this are outbreaks in SNFs and the impact of the Avenal State Prison outbreak on staff who live in surrounding counties, such as Fresno. Key actions to address concerns include 1) continuing to provide Infection Preventionists expertise to

assist SNFs on infection control practices; 2) ensure baseline testing of SNF residents and health care workers; 3) ensure adequate and proper use of PPE; and, 4) coordination and communication between CDCR, CDPH, and the Local Health Department to mitigate outbreaks at state prisons with employees who return to live in Fresno County.

- **Imperial County** is experiencing elevated disease transmission. Drivers of this include US citizens coming across the Mexican border seeking healthcare and continued need for staffing solutions at hospitals. Key actions to address concerns include 1) building additional testing capacity, 2) training and onboarding contact tracing staff, 3) transport patients to hospitals in neighboring counties when hospital capacity is full or limited; and, 4) stand up support for alternative care sites.
- **Kern County (has variance)** is experiencing elevated disease transmission and increasing hospitalization. Drivers of this include 1) outbreaks at SNFs and state/federal prisons and 2) residents in surrounding counties being admitted to their county hospital. Key action steps include: 1) communicate and coordinate with CDPH to provide Infection Preventionists expertise to assist SNFs and to ensure baseline testing at these facilities; 2) promote community testing sites; and, 3) targeted outreach and improve public messaging and education on the importance personal protection measures across various sectors.
- **Kings County (has variance)** is experiencing elevated disease transmission, increasing hospitalizations, and limited hospital capacity. Drivers of this include county experiencing outbreaks at Avenal State prison within their jurisdiction, resulting in secondary infection to staff working within the central and satellite kitchens; outbreak at local Adventist Health (AH) admitting COVID positive patients from Tulare, Reedley, and SNF outbreaks. Key actions to address concerns include 1) coordination and communication between local health department, CDPH, and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to mitigate outbreak at Avenal State Prison; 2) order needed resources through the Standardized Emergency Management System such as oxygen concentrators, health care staff, testing kits, and PPEs; and, 3) continue to engage with SNFs on infection control measures.
- **Los Angeles County (has variance)** is experiencing the possibility of elevated disease transmission. Drivers of this include having a high case rate that is highly related to high testing capacity and volume countywide, which also includes testing all residents and staff at over 235 SNFs. Key actions to monitor the situation include 1) monitoring positivity rate among those tested to ensure that there isn't a significant increase that may signal more community transmission; 2) continuing to provide Infection Preventionists expertise to assist SNFs and to ensure baseline testing at every SNF that has not reported any positive cases; and, 3) working with the state to ensure supply chain issues related to PPE at SNFs are resolved.
- **Riverside County (has variance)** is experiencing elevated disease transmission. Drivers of this include: 1) outbreaks at state prisons and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), 2) potential transmission at public protests with large numbers of people in close proximity without face coverings, 3) in-county patient transfers from Imperial County, 4) patients seeking care from Northern Baja California and traveling along SR-86 corridor into Coachella Valley and 5) general increases in local gatherings. Key action steps to address concerns include: 1) close monitoring of data; 2) increase testing volume at county and state sites; 3) continue SNF outreach and support and implement Quick Response Task Force assistance for high risk facilities; 4) expand contact tracing workforce; 5) increase public messaging on the importance of personal protection measures; and 6) coordination and communication between the local health department, CDPH, and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to mitigate outbreaks at state prisons.
- **San Bernardino County (has variance)** is experiencing elevated disease transmission and increasing hospitalizations. Drivers of this include: 1) community transmission from gatherings, 2) workplace transmission, 3) transmissions at state prison, state hospital, county jails and academy, and skilled nursing facilities, 4) transfer of patients from Imperial County. Action steps to address these concerns include: 1) expanding community testing and testing among priority populations; 2) coordination and communication between local health department, CDPH, and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to mitigate outbreaks at state prisons; and with CDPH for outbreak mitigation at the State Hospital, 3) providing SNF Taskforce support and Infection Prevention expertise to support SNFs; 4) increasing public messaging and education on the importance personal protection measures including face coverings and

personal responsibility; 5) working with labs and employers to increase turn-around time from diagnosis to isolation and initiation of case contacting; and 6) increasing number of contact tracers.

- **San Joaquin County (has variance)** is experiencing increasing hospitalization and limited hospital capacity. Drivers of this include 1) community transmission due to gatherings, 2) workplace transmission followed by household transmission; 3) SNF outbreaks; and, 4) increase in widespread testing. Action steps to address concerns include: 1) increase public messaging on the importance of personal protection measures and the risks involved with mass gatherings in multiple languages; 2) continuing to provide Infection Preventionists expertise to assist SNFs on infection control practices, ensure baseline testing and proper use of PPE.
- **Santa Barbara County (has variance)** is experiencing increasing hospitalization related to increasing cases in our north county region. Drivers of this increase include 1) community transmission due to gatherings, 2) workplace transmission followed by household transmission; 3) SNF outbreaks; and 4) increase in widespread community testing. Key action areas to address concerns include 1) engage community leaders, stakeholders, and members in taking actions to prevent community transmission; 2) continue prevention messaging through multiple mediums; 3) continue to enhance contact tracing; and 4) continuing to provide Infection Preventionists expertise to assist SNFs on infection control practices, ensure baseline testing, and proper use of PPE.
- **Santa Clara County (has variance)** is experiencing increasing hospitalization. Drivers of increased hospitalization may include 1) increased testing of county residents and individuals from neighboring counties who seek hospital care in Santa Clara County, resulting in an increase of COVID+ patients admitted for observation and treatment; 2) patient transfers from outside the county; 3) patient transfers from long term care facilities; and/or increased transmission among residents or individuals from neighboring counties who seek care in hospitals in Santa Clara County. Although the percentage change in hospitalizations shows an increase, the increase in the absolute number of patients hospitalized is low relative to the size of the population in Santa Clara County and is low relative to the number of hospital beds available in the County. Key actions to address the increase include 1) coordination and communication between the local health department and hospitals in the county experiencing increases, to identify underlying causes, 2) data collection from hospitals that serve large proportions of out-of- jurisdiction patients to identify county of residence, 3) coordination and communication between the local health department and long term care facilities to support these facilities with caring for residents with confirmed COVID-19 when appropriate to avoid transfer to the hospital, and 4) increased public messaging, in multiple languages, on the importance of personal protection measures and the risks involved with mass gatherings.
- **Stanislaus County (has variance)** is experiencing increasing hospitalization. Drivers of this include an 1) increase in outbreaks and clusters related to family gatherings, businesses (in and out of county) and healthcare facilities; 2) the hospital being a regional hospital accepting patients that are residents outside the county; 3) decreased attention to personal protection measures such as face coverings and social distancing. Action steps to address concerns include 1) prioritizing rapid contact tracing, isolation and quarantine by public health staff for new positive cases; 2) continual monitoring of tests being conducted in the county and relocating sites, when necessary, to more densely populated and higher incidence areas, 3) continually offering businesses resources and technical assistance to comply with local requirements; 4) closely monitoring healthcare facilities and continuing to provide Infection Preventionist expertise to assist SNFs with planning and response; 5) retaining trained employees from other county departments to continue to assist in contact tracing; 6) partnering with community-based organizations serving minorities for outreach, education, and mobile testing; and 7) increased messaging including a public media campaign to promote face covering and social distancing.
- **Tulare County (has variance)** is experiencing elevated disease transmission. Drivers of this include outbreaks in skilled nursing facilities and work places and barriers to preventing transmission within households. Increased hospitalizations and ICU utilization have been related to multiple conditions other than COVID19. Key action areas to address concerns include 1) continue to engage with SNFs and businesses and with ongoing collaboration with Licensing and Certification and the HAI program; 2) continue

to enhance contact tracing; and, 3) continue public messaging through multiple mediums about actions to prevent community transmission.

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