**Recent Updates:**

* DHS today confirmed a presumptive positive case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in a resident with recent international travel, unrelated to the Diamond Princess Cruise Ship.
* A County resident returned from a cruise ship 10 days ago that departed from San Francisco and traveled to Mexico.
* This patient is showing symptoms of the virus, and is currently in stable condition in an isolated room at a local hospital.
* Tests conducted by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in close coordination with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), County, and hospital officials confirmed the presumptive positive diagnosis.
* The CDC will test a specimen again to confirm the diagnosis before designating a positive case of COVID-19.
* DHS will not release further details about the patient or facility to protect their privacy.
* The patient was not infected in Sonoma County.
* As you likely hear in the news, Coronavirus continues to spread in the United States and globally. The CDC is maintaining a website with an updated list of locations of confirmed COVID-19 cases.
* Any residents who are ill and need medical attention should first call their medical provider first who can provide specific guidance.

**What is the County Doing to Prepare and Respond?**

* We have been actively monitoring the situation and preparing for several weeks to respond to keep the community safe.
* In response to this presumptive positive case, we have declared a Local Emergency and a Local Public Health Emergency.
  + The Board of Supervisors will consider ratifying these emergencies at a special meeting that is being scheduled for this week.
  + Declaring these emergencies empower the County to:
    - More effectively respond to the outbreak,
    - Seek and utilize mutual aid,
    - Potentially obtain reimbursement,
    - Coordinate communications with stakeholders and the community, and
    - Ensure that the County's public health professionals have all necessary tools at their disposal to keep the community safe.
* A website has been set up to learn more about the Coronavirus and information about prevention measures: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Health/Information-About-Coronavirus/>
* We are working closely with CDPH and the CDC to monitor these cases.
* We are encouraging everyone to practice good hygiene to reduce your risk of becoming infected with a respiratory virus, such as influenza or COVID-19, which includes:
  + washing hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds,
  + avoid touching your eyes and face,
  + coughing or sneezing into your sleeved elbow,
  + and staying home when ill.
  + If you have not received your flu shot yet, it’s not too late; annual flu shots are the best protection from flu, which still sickens and kills thousands of people in the US every year.
* County Health Officer, Dr. Celeste Philip is providing Health Alert information to all local health care providers on guidance for how to screen and care for possible cases of COVID-19.
* To respond to potential cases of COVID-19 in in the County, DHS has activated a cross-agency team to monitor the situation and is collaborating with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM).
* DHS is working closely with other Bay Area health departments, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to closely monitor the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19).
* DHS is working closely with local public health partners/healthcare providers to take action to isolate and test any high-risk individuals in consultation with the CDC to prevent the spread of disease and protect the public’s health.
* A letter was sent to parents regarding novel coronavirus and schools was sent by Dr. Philip through the Sonoma County Office of Education on February 7, 2020.
* DHS holds weekly calls with the county’s Health Care Coalition whose members include hospitals, clinics, other health care organizations such as American Red Cross and staff from DEM and the Human Services Department.

**COVID-19 Patient Transferred to a County Hospital on Feb. 24**

* A patient transferred to Sonoma County on February 24 from Travis Air Force Base, with the first case of COVID-19 in Sonoma County is still being treated at a local hospital.
* The patient was among the US evacuees from the quarantined Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan, and is in the County receiving care to lessen the burden on the local health care system in the communities near the base.
* The patient tested positive for COVID-19, however they do not show any symptoms of the virus, such as fever and difficulty breathing.
* Sonoma County is not the only jurisdiction in the Bay Area to receive such COVID-19 patients from Travis Air Force Base.
* The patient was not infected in Sonoma County.
* DHS will not release further details about the patient or facility to protect their privacy.