Marin County COVID-19 status update: March 14th, 2020

Two New Cases Confirmed:

Today, Marin Public Health confirmed its first cases of community acquired COVID-19 infection in Marin County. Today’s two additional cases bring Marin’s total count to five. Community transmission means they are unrelated to travel and have no identifiable contact with a known case, indicating likely infection within our community.

In the news release announcement, Marin Public Health Officer, Dr. Matt Willis commented:

“The first cases of community transmission of COVID-19 in Marin means we’re in a new stage of working to mitigate spread. We’ve been anticipating this. This is why we took proactive steps this week, including limiting large gatherings and closing classrooms.”

New Guidance on Cleaning Community Spaces:

Marin County Environmental Health Services and Marin County Public Health have issued guidance on cleaning community spaces, which reviews cleaning and disinfection procedures, proper trash disposal, and safety tips for cleaning personnel.

Steps to ensure appropriate disinfection of common areas within community spaces – such as offices, day care centers, community centers, etc. -- is a commonly asked question. Current evidence suggests that the virus may remain infectious for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in community settings.

Testing Update:

On Wednesday, Marin County Public Health soft-launched its “drive through” field testing site in Marin. After the successful pilot, the field-testing site fully launched on Thursday. Since that time, more than 100 Marin county residents have been referred for testing.

For someone to be eligible to be tested, they must be referred by a physician. This is so the physician can assess symptoms and evaluate other possible conditions (e.g., flu, pneumonia). Many physicians are now
performing these assessments over the telephone. Once a doctor
determines the individual should be tested, the testing will be coordinated
with Marin Public Health.

**COVID-19 Activity in Marin:**

- Confirmed cases in Marin County: 5
  - With known source: 3
  - Community transmission: 2
- COVID-19 related deaths in Marin: 0
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Governor’s
  Office of Emergency Services is managing the evaluation, quarantine
  and testing of passengers from the Grand Princess Cruise -- Hawaiian
  voyage. While all American passengers have been relocated from the
  cruise ship to isolation areas, Marin Health Officials are still awaiting
  the ship’s manifest to determine which passengers – if any – are Marin
  County residents.
- As of March 13 at 8:00a.m., there are 247 cases and three deaths in
  California, according to the [California Department of Public Health](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/IHDM/Documents/CORONAVIRUS-STATUS-UPDATES-MARCH-13-2020.pdf).

**Where to get the latest information:**

Visit the official Marin County Coronavirus webpage
(MarinHHS.org/coronavirus) review answers to frequently asked
questions, access guidance for special groups and subscribe for email
updates. To view past status updates concerning COVID-19 activity in
Marin County, click on the resources tab on the Coronavirus webpage.

Have questions? Individuals can contact Marin Health and Human
Services with non-medical questions about the coronavirus by calling
(415) 473-7191 (Monday – Friday, 9:30am to 12-noon and 1pm to 5pm)
or emailing COVID-19@marincounty.org.