

The City of Santa Barbara is coordinating with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department to receive the latest updates and emergency procedures on the coronavirus from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

As you may be aware, the CDC recently confirmed two possible cases of person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 in California in the general public. These individuals reside in Northern California and are receiving medical care in Sacramento County. The individuals had no known exposure to the virus through travel or close contact with a known infected individual. The CDC has sent a team to support the California Public Health Department to investigate these cases.

We have received the following updates from the County Public Health Department:

**The health risk from novel coronavirus to the public remains low at this time.** While COVID-19 has a high transmission rate, it has a low mortality rate. From the international data we have, of those who have tested positive for COVID-19, approximately 80% do not exhibit symptoms that would require hospitalization. There have been no confirmed deaths related to COVID-19 in the United States to date.

**There are no cases of COVID-19 in Santa Barbara County at this time.** The County's Public Health Department has formed a COVID-19 response team and has activated the Public Information & Guidance Branch to assist with the surge of public information needs.  
Sage

The Public Health team is providing ongoing guidance and alerts in coordination with the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Public Health Department has developed a strong disease control and prevention team and emergency preparedness infrastructure.

**Practice standard infection control procedures.** As with any virus, especially during the flu season, individuals are advised to remain vigilant and practice standard infection control procedures, including:

- Washing hands with soap and water. Using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not on hand.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay away from work if you become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough

Again, the risk of COVID-19 remains low at this time. The public is urged to not panic, but be prepared. For more information, please refer to the following resources:

[Frequently Asked Questions About the Coronavirus](#)  
[U.S. Centers for Disease Control Website](#)