



Pathfinder

"The discovery of community transmission elsewhere in the state makes me feel that COVID-19 could arrive in our county at any time and we want to be prepared."

- County Health Officer Dr. Henning Ansong

Teamwork Matters

A message from
the City Manager



JASON STILWELL

The City of Santa Maria understands the concerns about the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), now a global pandemic, and is taking action. At this writing, there were no confirmed local cases, and the immediate health risk to the general public is considered low, but that could change.

We have a coronavirus management team in place, are sharing information with employees, are updating our action plan in the event of a contagious disease outbreak, and encourage departments to consider whether travel for training is necessary and to seek video- or teleconferencing if possible.

An excellent resource is the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD), whose trusted health officers constantly update its [online information portal](#) for the community with information available in English and Spanish. The site features daily status reports, general information about coronavirus, prevention tips, frequently asked questions, and links to information released by the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Each of us must stay informed and understand what COVID-19 is, and how together we can slow the spread of this disease. The longer we are proactive and protective to keep the virus at-bay, the better. All of this takes having the right information.

Around the world, COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, is killing thousands of people and infecting what might end up being millions. Businesses are closing, and quarantines and travel bans are coming into place.

There are steps we can take to slow the growth.

Health officials note that immediate risk for the general public remains low at this time. Nevertheless, due to the rapidly changing nature of the spread of COVID-19 around the world, it is more important than ever to prepare for potential community spread.

The County Public Health Department reminds the community to take the following steps to protect their health and the health of those around them:

- Wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, to reduce the risk of infection with a number of different viruses.
- Stay away from work, school or other people if you become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and discard the tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces regularly.

Jason