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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Officials Confirm First Case of COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) in Merced County

MERCED, CA – Merced County Public Health Officer Dr. Kenneth Bird announced today that an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in Merced County. This is a travel-related case and was **not** acquired through community spread.

The individual is doing well and is isolating and recovering at home. The Merced County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) is working to identify potential contacts. Based on information provided by the individual, Public Health staff will assess risks of exposure and contact any affected individuals.

According to Dr. Bird, “The confirmation of a first case of COVID-19 in our community further increases the urgency to expand efforts to protect ourselves and others from this virus. Maintain social distancing. Wash your hands. Don’t touch your face. Stay at home, especially if you are sick. Call ahead to your health care provider if you have symptoms consistent with the illness.”

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Public Health Communication at (209) 381-1229. In order to maintain social distancing, there is no formal press conference planned at this time. Additional information and statements will be released as they become available.

For more information about COVID-19, visit www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus

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