



County of Fresno DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

April 1, 2020

To the City of Firebaugh.

We know these are challenging times with concerns of COVID-19 impacting our County, State, and Nation. The Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) recently became aware of concerns in the community of Firebaugh regarding an individual who tested positive. I am certain this heightened your awareness and caused concern. I want to share some facts with you:

First, when we are made aware of a positive case, the FCDPH Communicable Disease Investigation (CDI) Program notifies the individual and determines who they have been in close contact with. We will isolate any individuals in close contact to see if they develop symptoms. We know the most opportune time to infect someone else is when you are sick – so isolation is key.

Second, we often want to rely on a laboratory test to confirm if people have COVID-19. Unfortunately, the tests are not very accurate before someone becomes sick. So, if the individual does not have symptoms, we typically do not test. This is frustrating but its real.

Third, we know that the that there are things we need to do while the State is “sheltering in place.” We need our law enforcement and fire departments to protect us, we know we need the medical community to provide service, and we know that we need to feed our people. That means some of us need to continue to serve the community, but we need to work differently. We must stay home if we are sick, we need to work 6 feet apart, and we need to wash our hands more often.

In the recent positive report of COVID-19 in Firebaugh, the Firebaugh School District took all the necessary and appropriate steps to protect the community and, working at our direction they will continue to provide meals to the community through the schools.

We know COVID-19 is widely present in our community and we need all members of our community to:

- Wash hands with soap and water
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home if you become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough
- Stand at least 6 feet apart at all times.

Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health

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We know parents, teachers, and students have heightened concern about COVID-19 and we know the situation is continuing to evolve. We appreciate the partnership with The City of Firebaugh.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rais Vohra in black ink.

Rais Vohra, M.D.
Fresno County Interim Health Officer

Handwritten signature of David Pomaville in black ink.

David Pomaville
Director