



**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **March 22, 2020**

**JOINT INFORMATION CENTER**  
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### **FIVE NEW CASES OF COVID-19 CONFIRMED IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

**(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.)** -- The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD) is confirming five (5) additional positive cases of COVID-19 in the county. This makes 18 total confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Santa Barbara County at this time.

- Case #14—in their 50s and resides in North County
- Case #15—in their 40s and resides in North County
- Case #16—in their 20s and resides in South County
- Case #17—in their 70s and resides in South County
- Case #18—in their 20s and resides in South County

PHD is conducting a thorough investigation to determine how they contracted COVID-19 as well as identifying persons with whom they may have had close contact. Mandated social distancing measures are in place to slow the spread of the virus.

The Governor of California has also issued a Stay at Home Order, which is a critical step to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community. This is a socially transmitted illness, and we all have a role in stopping it from spreading. By working together to flatten the curve, we will help to prevent Santa Barbara County's healthcare systems from being overwhelmed, and reduce the possibility of casualties from the virus.

Community members are reminded to take measures to prevent the spread of respiratory illness:

- Wash your hands with soap and water
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home if you become sick with respiratory symptoms, fever or cough
- Keep surfaces clean by wiping them down with a household disinfectant

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#### **Stay Connected:**

County Public Health: [www.PublicHealthSBC.org](http://www.PublicHealthSBC.org), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)  
County of Santa Barbara: [www.CountyofSB.org](http://www.CountyofSB.org), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#)  
County Information Line: (833) 688-5551, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
2-1-1 Call Center: Dial 211 or outside the area, call (800) 400-1572  
Recorded Information Line: (805) 681-4373  
Behavioral Wellness 24/7 Access Line: (888) 868-1649