Tuolumne County
Public Health Department

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First COVID-19 Deaths Reported in Tuolumne County

Today, the Tuolumne County Public Health Department has confirmed the first two deaths of Tuolumne County residents from COVID-19. The individuals were both males, one in his 60s with no known underlying health conditions which contributed to his illness, and one in his 80s, with some underlying health conditions. HIPAA privacy rules restrict the release of any further information.

"We want to share our heartfelt condolences with the families and loved ones in this difficult time," shared Dr. Liza Ortiz, Interim Tuolumne County Health Officer. "These deaths are a sobering reminder of the severity of COVID-19. Our actions affect the lives of those around us and our whole community. Tuolumne County must act to slow the rate of transmission and protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our community."

Everyone is at risk for being exposed to, and acquiring, COVID-19. Some are more vulnerable to severe illness related to the disease, which may mean medical treatment, hospitalization, ICU, and sometimes death. Older adults and those with underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness and death from COVID-19.

We want to remind the public that the best ways to protect yourself and those around you from COVID-19 are:

- Stay home as much as possible
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others outside of your household
- Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water, or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Wear an appropriate face covering when around others
- Avoid touching your face

No-cost testing is available at the state testing site at the Calaveras County Fairgrounds in Angels Camp, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M.
Schedule an appointment here: https://lhi.care/covidtesting Very limited walk-in appointments may also be available. If you are symptomatic, please contact your healthcare provider or call the Adventist COVID hotline at 209-536-5166. If you think you have been exposed to a person with COVID 19, please call public health at 209-533-7440.