

2nd positive coronavirus case reported in San Bernardino County

By [Matthew Cabe](#)

Staff Writer

Posted Mar 16, 2020 at 7:39 PM

SAN BERNARDINO — A 54-year-old male with underlying health conditions has become the second positive case of the new coronavirus in San Bernardino County, officials announced Monday.

The man had come into contact with persons who had recently traveled from Washington state, according to a statement released Monday evening.

The county reported its first coronavirus case Sunday in a 53-year-old who had recently returned from the United Kingdom, according to [a previous Daily Press report](#).

The woman went to the Kaiser Permanente Fontana Medical Center's emergency department on Thursday with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, health officials said.

Acting County Health Officer Dr. Erin Gustafson said in the statement that the second case “does not change our level of readiness or response.” She added that “it should not increase alarm among the public.”

“The health risk from COVID-19 to the general public in San Bernardino County remains low at this time, but everyone is strongly urged to engage in practices that reduce the risk of spread,” Gustafson said. “We are prepared from a public health standpoint, and our residents, cities, businesses and other key communities have been informed about safe practices.”

County Board of Supervisors Chair Curt Hagman, who represents the 4th District, said local officials “thoroughly expect to see an increase in the number of reported cases” as more testing is conducted and more results are returned.

Hagman commended the community for its strength and resilience. He said avoiding panic and heeding advice of public health professionals “is the path that will lead us through this crisis.”

Information on the county’s second case was sparse Monday. Unlike the first case, details related to testing and whether the man went to a hospital were not included in the county’s statement.

“For various reasons including patient confidentiality, what’s in the release is all we can say at this time,” county spokesperson David Wert told the Daily Press in an email.

The county’s second case was part of an overall increase seen throughout California on Monday. Dr. Barbara Ferrer, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health director, announced 25 new confirmed cases, bringing the county’s total to 94, [the Los Angeles Times reported](#).

There have been 41 new cases in L.A. County over the last 48 hours, Ferrer said. At least 15 are likely due to community transmission.

Riverside County, meanwhile, confirmed its first two deaths associated with COVID-19 — two patients in the Coachella Valley — while Santa Clara County confirmed two additional deaths, bringing that county’s total deaths to four, according to the Times report.

Sacramento County confirmed one person had died, bringing its total to two deaths, both people who were older than 70 and had underlying health conditions.

As of 8 p.m. Monday, the Times reported a total of 392 confirmed cases and 11 deaths in California.

L.A. County officials on Monday announced the closure of all bars, fitness centers and movie theaters, and directed restaurants to move to takeout only. The directive applies to all 88 cities and unincorporated regions of that county. Officials are also banning gatherings of over 50 people following a recommendation made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Sunday.

Back in San Bernardino County, several public attractions and offices were temporarily closed in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus, according to a separate county statement released Monday.

Additionally, several county departments will offer services only online and over the phone, effective immediately. The closing of those offices is expected to last until at least April 3.

“We have a responsibility to do everything we can to limit the spread of the virus while still providing access to the County services people need,” Hagman said.

The following county attractions are closed to the public until at least April 3:

- Big Bear Alpine Zoo at Moonridge
- County branch libraries
- County museums and historical sites
- County Regional Parks, including Calico Ghost Town
- Park and recreation district preschools in Big Bear and Joshua Tree

The following senior and community centers are also closed; however, centers that conduct meal programs will make meals available via drive-thru:

- Big Bear Senior Center
- Bloomington Ayala Senior Center

- Joshua Tree Community Center
- Lucerne Valley Community Center
- Wonder Valley Community Center

Services for county departments and offices that will be available only by phone and online include:

- Assessor, including wedding services
- Child Support Services
- Land Use Services, including Planning, Building and Safety, and Code Enforcement
- Public Works, with the exception of lobby computer access to surveyor records
- Registrar of Voters, with the exception of election observers
- Special Districts Water and Sanitation
- Transitional Assistance
- Veterans' Affairs

Additional measures may be taken and announced to the public in the coming days.

Visit wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/coronavirus/ for more information about the coronavirus crisis. Email the county at coronavirus@dph.sbcounty.gov, or contact the coronavirus public information line from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 909-387-3911.

City Editor Matthew Cabe can be reached at MCabe@VVDailyPress.com or 760-490-0052. Follow him on Twitter [@DP_MatthewCabe](https://twitter.com/DP_MatthewCabe).