



NEWS



News Headlines 03/27 – 30/2020

- COUNTY COVID-19 COUNTS MOUNT, FIRST RESPONDERS AFFECTED, NURSING HOME OUTBREAK
- Over 100 test positive for coronavirus in San Bernardino County
- San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies, firefighters test positive for coronavirus
- Firefighter first-responders stricken by virus
- Two Firefighters in San Bernardino County, From Different Agencies Test Positive for COVID-19
- 2 San Bernardino County deputies, 2 firefighters contract COVID-19
- 2 San Bernardino County Firefighters Test Positive For Coronavirus
- Two San Bernardino County firefighters have tested positive for coronavirus
- San Bernardino County coronavirus count grows to 111 cases
- San Bernardino County: Two firefighters test positive for coronavirus
- 2 firefighters in San Bernardino County test positive for COVID-19
- San Bernardino County coronavirus cases surpass 100
- Financially stressed by outbreak, fire departments foray into digital
- Coronavirus in Coachella Valley: County case total climbs to 233; Palm Springs relocates homeless shelter
- San Bernardino County Fire Agencies Join Together To Provide Services During Pandemic

COUNTY COVID-19 COUNTS MOUNT, FIRST RESPONDERS AFFECTED, NURSING HOME OUTBREAK

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: March 30, 2020

San Bernardino County had 111 coronavirus cases as of Sunday, (March 29), up from 76 on Saturday, with three deaths. The county also saw its first positive cases of coronavirus in firefighters. Yucaipa reeled from the news of an outbreak in a nursing facility, and a prison inmate in Chino tested positive. The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said two of its firefighters tested positive. One works for the County Fire Protection District and the other for the Montclair Fire Department. Both entered self-isolation after experiencing flu-like symptoms. Two more deputies with the County Sheriff's Department have contracted COVID-19, officials said Sunday (March 29). That makes three deputies since officials announced the first confirmed case within the department involved a patrol deputy last week. At the California Institution for Men in Chino, seven employees and one inmate have tested positive, officials said Sunday. Saturday, the County reported 12 residents of a nursing facility in Yucaipa tested positive, and one patient; an 89-year-old woman with underlying health issues, died from the illness on Thursday.

<http://z1077fm.com/county-covid-19-counts-mount-first-responders-affected-nursing-home-outbreak/>

Over 100 test positive for coronavirus in San Bernardino County

Stacey Moore, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: March 30, 2020



A technician processes tests in the San Bernardino County Public Health Department laboratory. County photo

SAN BERNARDINO — The number of confirmed cases of the new coronavirus in San Bernardino County surged past 100 over the weekend, with 111 people testing positive and three deaths confirmed by Monday morning.

County and private labs have processed 996 tests so far, according to the Department of Public Health.

The sick include 12 elderly residents of a nursing facility in Yucaipa who tested positive for COVID-19 on Saturday, March 28.

Another resident of the nursing home, an 89-year-old woman with underlying health issues, died from COVID-19 Thursday, March 26.

A resident of a second nursing facility in Mentone is presenting symptoms of the disease, the county announced.

Public Health professionals are working with both facilities to expedite the immediate testing of everyone who lives and works in both facilities, according to the county.

“This is the first instance we have had in our county of a concentrated COVID-19 outbreak,” said Acting County Health Officer Dr. Erin Gustafson. “The county will do everything within its ability and authority to minimize the tragedy this pandemic has the potential to create in our communities.”

She called the outbreak a signal to anyone who is resisting complying with public health orders and guidelines.

“Staying at home, minimizing non-essential contact with others, maintaining social distancing from even people we know and with whom we have regular contact, and consistently practicing good hygiene is our best hope of making forward the other side of this pandemic,” Gustafson said.

County residents who have tested positive also include two sheriff’s deputies who work in county jails. The Sheriff’s Department announced they had tested positive Sunday, March 29.

The **county fire** department announced on the same day that two firefighters have tested positive for the new coronavirus. These are the first two positive cases of firefighter first responders within the county.

One works for the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (the county fire department) and the other for the Montclair Fire Department.

One of the ongoing criticisms of San Bernardino County during the pandemic has been its refusal to reveal in what communities people have tested positive.

The county website says it will partly change that this week. It will begin reporting the number of cases in each of the county’s 24 incorporated cities and towns as soon as Monday.

The cases will be reported on the coronavirus dashboard at <http://wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/coronavirus>.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/covid-19/article_802fcb90-729a-11ea-88b0-17cce7b767e1.html

San Bernardino County sheriff’s deputies, firefighters test positive for coronavirus

Hannah Fry, Los Angeles Times

March 30, 2020, 7:59 am

Two San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department deputies and two firefighters have tested positive for COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the coronavirus, county officials said.

All four began self-isolating after they started to experience flu-like symptoms. They later tested positive for the virus and appear to be doing well, authorities said Sunday.

Sheriff’s officials said in a statement that they are investigating how their deputies, who were assigned to the department’s Detentions and Corrections Bureau, became infected.

“Although we do not know when and where the deputies were exposed to the virus, we continue to encourage all members to heed the warnings of health officials while on and off duty,” officials wrote in a statement.

San Bernardino County fire officials also say it is not clear how their personnel were exposed to the virus. One of the firefighters works for the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District. The other works for the Montclair Fire Department, officials said.

Despite the infections, county fire officials say fire and ambulance services “remain robust and are fully staffed and equipped to respond to all emergencies.”

The news comes a day after county officials announced that 12 people at a Yucaipa nursing facility tested positive for the virus after a resident of the facility died of COVID-19 last week. At least one of the people who tested positive worked at the facility, which officials did not name.

A resident of a second Yucaipa nursing facility also has symptoms of the illness, officials said. County public health staffers are working with both facilities to expedite testing of all residents and employees, they said.

San Bernardino County had recorded 111 cases of the virus and three deaths as of Monday morning.

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-03-30/san-bernardino-county-sheriffs-deputies-firefighters-coronavirus>

Firefighter first-responders stricken by virus

Staff Writer, Inland News Today

Posted: March 29, 2020

SAN BERNARDINO – (INT) – More first-responders are being stricken by the coronavirus.

The first two **San Bernardino County firefighters** have tested positive for COVID-19. One is with the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District and the other the Montclair Fire Department. Both are feeling well and remain in isolation. Both firefighters are being medically monitored by their primary physicians, according to a statement issued Sunday.

The San Bernardino County Regional All Hazard IMT has been planning for the last three weeks for the possibility of exposure and infection to the county’s first responders. The team’s plan, already in place, ensures that fire, rescue, and EMS service delivery will not be interrupted regardless of jurisdiction.

<http://www.inlandnewstoday.com/story.php?s=58383>

Two Firefighters in San Bernardino County, From Different Agencies Test Positive for COVID-19

Staff Writer, 24 / 7 Headline News

Posted: March 29, 2020

The San Bernardino County Fire All Hazard Regional Incident Management Team (IMT) said on Sunday that two firefighters have tested positive for COVID-19.

The two firefighters self-quarantined when they began having flu-like symptoms. Since then, on Sunday, March 29, 2020, the COVID-19 tests for both firefighters came back positive. These two firefighters are the first two in San Bernardino County to test positive to-date. The two work for different agencies within the county, one for the **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District and the other for the Montclair Fire Department. The two firefighters are remaining in isolation and are doing well.

San Bernardino County Regional All Hazard IMT has been planning for the possibility of exposure and infection to first responders and they are assuring the public that they are fully staffed and are able to respond to emergencies.

<https://247headline.com/two-firefighters-in-san-bernardino-county-from-different-agencies-test-positive-for-covid-19/>

2 San Bernardino County deputies, 2 firefighters contract COVID-19

Brian Day, KTLA 5 News

Posted: March 29, 2020, 9:18 pm

Two San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputies and two firefighters who work for different agencies within San Bernardino County have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, authorities said Sunday.

All four of the first responders were self-isolating and appeared to be doing well, according to sheriff's and **San Bernardino County Fire** Department officials.

Both of the infected deputies were assigned to the department's Detentions and Corrections Bureau, the department said in a written statement. It was not clear what specific facility they worked at.

"The deputies entered self-quarantine due to an onset of flu-like symptoms prior to receiving test results and have been off of work for a week," according to the statement.

"We are currently investigating how they were infected. Although we do not know when and where the deputies were exposed to the virus, we continue to encourage all members to heed the warnings of health officials while on and off duty," the statement said. "Out of respect for our deputies, no additional details regarding their identity or medical treatment will be released."

Authorities also announced that two firefighters in San Bernardino County had contracted COVID-19.

One of the affected firefighters works for the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, while the other works in the Montclair Fire Department, San Bernardino County Fire Department officials said.

“Both firefighters entered self-quarantine due to an onset of flu-like symptoms prior to receiving test results,” the agency said in a written statement. “Currently, the firefighters are feeling well and remain in isolation.”

San Bernardino County fire officials have been planning with regional partners for the possibility of first responders becoming exposed to or infected by the virus, the statement added. Contingencies and partnerships are in place to make sure fire, rescue and emergency medical services will not be interrupted.

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health reported 111 infections and 3 deaths within the county due to COVID-19 as of Sunday.

The county saw its first cluster outbreak on Saturday, when officials announced that one resident had died and 12 others had tested positive for novel Coronavirus at the Cedar Mountain Post Acute nursing home in Yucaipa. A resident at another nursing home in Mentone displayed symptoms of the virus but was awaiting test results.

<https://ktla.com/news/local-news/2-san-bernardino-county-deputies-2-firefighters-contrast-covid-19/>

2 San Bernardino County Firefighters Test Positive For Coronavirus

Staff Writer, CBS 2 / KCAL 9 Los Angeles News

March 29, 2020, 8:40 pm

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY (CBSLA) — Two firefighters in San Bernardino County have tested positive for coronavirus.

They work for The **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District and the Montclair Fire Department.

The firefighters had been previously under a self-quarantine before being diagnosed with coronavirus.

“Currently, the firefighters are feeling well and remain in isolation,” the department said in a statement. “Both firefighters are being medically monitored by their primary physicians.”

Officials are encouraging the community to continue monitoring coronavirus updates.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2020/03/29/2-san-bernardino-county-firefighters-test-positive-for-coronavirus/>

Two San Bernardino County firefighters have tested positive for coronavirus

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: March 29, 2020

Two **San Bernardino County firefighters** have tested positive for the coronavirus.

On March 29, the incident commander of the county's All Hazard Regional Incident Management Team (IMT) was notified of this update, which marked the first two positive cases of firefighter first responders within the county.

The two firefighters work for two different agencies -- the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District and the Montclair Fire Department.

Both firefighters entered self-quarantine due to an onset of flu-like symptoms prior to receiving test results. Currently, the firefighters are feeling well and remain in isolation. Both firefighters are being medically monitored by their primary physicians.

The San Bernardino County Regional All Hazard IMT has been planning for the last three weeks for the possibility of exposure and infection to the county's first responders. The team's plan, already in place, ensures that fire, rescue, and EMS service delivery will not be interrupted regardless of jurisdiction, the Fire Department said.

The fire and ambulance services within the county remain robust and are fully staffed and equipped to respond to all emergencies, the Fire Department said.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/two-san-bernardino-county-firefighters-have-tested-positive-for-coronavirus/article_464b911a-7219-11ea-a5c2-f362174829db.html

San Bernardino County coronavirus count grows to 111 cases

JENNIFER IYER, Redlands Daily Facts / The Press-Enterprise

Posted: March 29, 2020, 7:19 p.m.



Cedar Mountain Post Acute Rehabilitation, a Yucaipa nursing facility, is seen Sunday, March 29, 2020. Twelve people at a Yucaipa nursing facility tested positive for the coronavirus, said San Bernardino County health officials, who would not name the center. Television news footage showed workers in protective gear removing items from Cedar Mountain. It is nestled within a residential area. (Photo by Cindy Yamanaka, The Press-Enterprise/SCNG)

San Bernardino County spokesman David Wert said the county had 111 coronavirus cases as of Sunday, March 29, up from 76 on Saturday; with three deaths. The number of deaths was unchanged from Saturday.

San Bernardino County also saw its first positive cases of coronavirus in firefighters, Yucaipa reeled from the news of an outbreak in a nursing facility, and a prison inmate in Chino tested positive.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said two of its firefighters tested positive. One works for the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District and the other for the Montclair Fire Department. Both entered self-isolation after experiencing flu-like symptoms.

“Currently, the firefighters are feeling well and remain in isolation,” a department news release states.

At the California Institution for Men in Chino, seven employees and one inmate have tested positive, officials said Sunday. Staff information is self reported. That number is up from two employees with coronavirus, which had been announced a week ago.

On Saturday, San Bernardino County reported 12 residents of a nursing facility in Yucaipa tested positive, and one patient, an 89-year-old woman with underlying health issues, died from the illness on Thursday.

County officials would not confirm the name of the facility, but TV news footage showed workers in protective gear removing items such as beds and wheelchairs from Cedar Mountain Skilled Nursing Facility on Fourth Street.

Mayor David Avila said he couldn't confirm which facility the cases were at, but said the city was working with county health officials to get that information.

“So far, they're not releasing anything,” Avila said.

County health workers are testing employees and all the other residents at the affected facility.

Of the woman who died, Avila said, “she became the first casualty of Yucaipa, which is sad. It's just a reminder that we need to keep our social distance and shelter at home as much as possible, except for essential needs.”

People also should support each other, he said.

“Talk to your neighbors, make sure they have everything they need,” Avila said.

Longtime Yucaipa resident Jo Sutt, who lives about five blocks from the Cedar Mountain facility, called the proximity of the newest cases “concerning.”

While she is being extremely cautious, the 71-year-old said she had been out to help with a Sunday morning food distribution at Oak Valley Church.

“I was very careful not to come in contact with anybody,” Sutt said. “Perhaps the wisest thing is not to go out, but I can't see myself quite doing that. I still am part of the community.”

She said the community has been in denial about the outbreak, because it is a smaller area and further away from larger cities.

But, she added, “everybody's in contact with everybody else, we're not that isolated anymore.”

Now that the virus is here, Avila said, “this is real and we need to make decisions on how we want to protect ourselves.”

<https://www.pe.com/2020/03/29/s-b-county-firefighters-test-positive-for-coronavirus-concerns-remain-over-nursing-homes/>

San Bernardino County: Two firefighters test positive for coronavirus

Staff Writer, Daily Press

Posted: March 29, 2020, 5:12 pm

SAN BERNARDINO — Two **San Bernardino County firefighters** have tested positive for the coronavirus, authorities said Sunday.

The two firefighters work for different agencies within County Fire. One is with the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, and the other is with the Montclair Fire Department.

Both self-quarantined after exhibiting flu-like symptoms before receiving test results, a county statement said.

Currently, the firefighters are feeling well, remain in quarantine and are being medically monitored.

According to the statement, the department has been preparing for potential cases among emergency responders for at least three weeks. The positive cases will not disrupt emergency services, officials said.

“The fire and ambulance services within the county remain robust and are fully staffed and equipped to respond to all emergencies,” the statement said.

According to John Hopkins University, there are 6,197 confirmed COVID-19 cases in California. As of 6 p.m. Sunday, the San Bernardino County Office of Public Health’s number of confirmed cases jumped from 76 to 111, the largest single-day increase since the count has been recorded. There are still 3 confirmed coronavirus-related deaths.

This story is developing and will be updated as more information becomes available.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20200329/san-bernardino-county-two-firefighters-test-positive-for-coronavirus>

2 firefighters in San Bernardino County test positive for COVID-19

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: March 29, 2020

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif.(VVNG.com) — On March 29, 2020, the Incident Commander of the county’s All Hazard Regional Incident Management Team (IMT) was notified that two firefighters tested positive for COVID 19.

These are the first two positive cases of firefighter first responders within the county.

The two firefighters work for two different agencies within San Bernardino County – The **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District and the Montclair Fire Department. Both firefighters entered self-quarantine due to an onset of flu-like symptoms prior to receiving test results. Currently, the firefighters are feeling well and remain in isolation. Both firefighters are being medically monitored by their primary physicians.

The San Bernardino County Regional All Hazard IMT has been planning for the last three weeks for the possibility of exposure and infection to the county’s first responders. The team’s plan, already in place, ensures that fire, rescue, and EMS service delivery will not be interrupted regardless of jurisdiction.

The fire and ambulance services within the county remain robust and are fully staffed and equipped to respond to all emergencies. The Command and General staff of the IMT are working with Public Health to determine the employees travels and interactions to help control further spread of the virus.

**The Incident Management Team would like to remind the public to stay vigilant and adhere to all the County Public Health guidelines.

*Stay Home *Stay Healthy *Stay Safe

<https://www.vvng.com/2-firefighters-in-san-bernardino-county-test-positive-for-covid-19/>

San Bernardino County coronavirus cases surpass 100

Gabriel Kelvin, Daily Press

Posted Mar 29, 2020, 12:01 AM

SAN BERNARDINO — The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the county reached 111 on Sunday, one day after the first “concentrated outbreak” in a Yucaipa nursing facility.

The 35 new cases represent the largest single-day increase since the first was reported on March 15. They were reported Sunday night when the tracker on the San Bernardino County’s Department of Public Health website clicked up from the previous total of 76.

County Spokesperson David Wert told the Daily Press the increase was not unexpected.

“We’ve been saying for some time we will be seeing some increase in the number of cases with the ramping up of testing that is going on,” Wert said. “This is not at all unexpected or unusual.”

Updated figures on the county’s COVID-19 dashboard also showed Sunday that two patients are under the age of 18, a first.

Wert said it was unclear Sunday evening whether the underage patients were among the new cases or part of an adjustment to earlier data.

Sunday’s updated numbers were unrelated to Saturday’s “concentrated outbreak” of the coronavirus in 12 residents in a nursing facility in Yucaipa, according to Wert.

County officials previously said they were working with that facility — and another where a resident showed symptoms of COVID-19 — on the immediate testing of all residents and employees.

Wert said Sunday that testing of residents and employees at the second nursing facility in Mentone was still being conducted. He added that the Yucaipa results had not yet been announced.

An 89-year-old woman with underlying health conditions who died Thursday was a resident of the Yucaipa nursing home. Her death was the county’s third attributed to the coronavirus. That number has not increased

Sunday’s increase came on the same day that **San Bernardino County Fire** officials said two of their firefighters have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Wert said the county is continuing to work on adding city data to its dashboard. He said the goal was to release COVID-19 numbers for the county's 24 cities by Monday.

At least one county official recently posted to social media that a drive-thru COVID-19 testing event would be held in the High Desert this week, but Wert said he did not know if the event has been confirmed.

"The events are dictated by the availability of test materials, and we unexpectedly had to test a lot of people yesterday because of the Yucaipa and Mentone nursing home cases," Wert said. "I don't know how much of an impact that had on our testing materials."

The county held its first drive-thru event at the National Orange Show Event Center in San Bernardino on Friday. Some 380 people made appointments for that event, according to a previous Daily Press report.

In California, there were 6,284 confirmed cases and 132 deaths as of 8:50 p.m. Sunday, according to Johns Hopkins University data.

Worldwide, the coronavirus has infected 722,435 people and killed nearly 34,000. Recoveries across the world totaled nearly 152,000, the Johns Hopkins data showed.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20200329/san-bernardino-county-coronavirus-cases-surpass-100>

Financially stressed by outbreak, fire departments foray into digital

Ryan Johnston, Statescoop

Posted: March 27, 2020

As the novel coronavirus closes down schools and businesses around the country, essential first responders and firefighters on the front lines of relief efforts have embraced digital communication and data-sharing software to stay safe and efficient, according to several local fire chiefs.

The pandemic, according to Dan Munsey, the fire chief of **San Bernardino Fire** and Emergency Medical Services in San Bernardino, California, is forcing the firefighting industry to innovate faster than it's ever had to before, especially for logistics and communication. Speaking on a conference call hosted by AT&T and the FirstNet Authority, the federal agency overseeing the national public-safety communications network, Munsey said technology is helping firefighters to solve problems beyond beating back blazes.

"Fire service is one of the slowest technology adopters out of any industry, only second to the construction industry," Munsey said. "But right now, we're facing serious fiscal challenges, we're having our operational capabilities challenged, and frankly we're facing strategy [troubles]."

Others on the call included Jim Whitney, the chief medical officer of the Redmond Fire Department in Washington; Harold Scoggins, the fire chief of the Seattle Fire Department; and Brian Fennessey, the fire chief of the Orange County Fire Authority in California. All three jurisdictions, they said, have moved to virtual meetings and briefings, for everything from situational awareness to operations, supplies and medical information. Fennessey said that his agency has demanded first responders be as educated as possible "because they have to be the COVID-19 experts" when they arrive at a scene.

The officials said they've also been as careful as possible to limit their own exposure to the virus. Once exposed or showing symptoms, firefighters quarantine or isolate for 14 days, they said.

“Whether it’s a broken leg, a cut finger, everybody gets a mask,” Fennessey said.

The crisis is also stretching the resources of emergency services and the chiefs said they need every service member they can get. New York City 911 dispatchers received more calls for help on Wednesday night than they did on Sept. 11, 2001, surpassing the city’s one-day record, according to emergency workers’ unions.

One way that firefighters are responding to resource shortages is by sharing equipment-inventory data with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, which has set up several daily surveys for local departments to share information about equipment shortages and the number of cases they’re recording locally. The data feeds into data dashboards that departments can use to visualize where outbreaks are occurring and what kinds of equipment they need.

Dashboards created by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the geospatial software company Esri, like this one, help local fire and emergency medical services departments visualize data on equipment inventories and the novel coronavirus outbreak itself. (IAFC)

“Once you start collecting information from various agencies,” Munsey said, “the IAFC leadership can use this information to talk to Congress, to talk to some of the larger vendors and ensure that the correct [personal protective equipment is] being distributed to the parts of the nation that really need it.”

Fire and emergency medical services departments are also capitalizing on their relationships with local health care providers and tech companies to figure out which of their members might be infected with the new coronavirus. Scoggins told StateScoop his department partnered with Amazon to create an online system for delivering test results.

“The member gets a barcode when they get a swab,” Scoggins said. “One side of the barcode goes on the package that goes to the lab, along with their other information. They then can check that barcode on their phone and find out what their test results were.”

Munsey said that upon arriving at the fire station in the morning, personnel are required go through an online wellness check that’s accessed by scanning a QR code on his department’s COVID-19 information packets. The data collected through the wellness checks is uploaded to a dashboard for management to review.

“We’ve probably sent 40 or 50 people home,” Munsey said.

<https://statescoop.com/coronavirus-fire-departments-go-digital-financial-stress/>

Coronavirus in Coachella Valley: County case total climbs to 233; Palm Springs relocates homeless shelter

Nicole Hayden and Sam Metz, Palm Springs Desert Sun

Posted: March 29, 2020, 10:03 a.m.

The city of Palm Springs has temporarily relocated its overnight homeless shelter to Palm Springs High School in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, which has left 233 Riverside County residents sickened as of Sunday afternoon.

County health officials Sunday reported 38 new cases, including 15 in the Coachella Valley, and no new deaths. The first two confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported in Indian Wells, while Palm Springs has the most among valley cities, at 22 cases.

There are currently no known COVID-19 cases in the local homeless community, said Greg Rodriguez, public policy adviser to Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez.

Palm Springs Mayor Geoff Kors said the homeless shelter will operate out of the high school gym until further notice. It was previously housed inside the former boxing club across from the Palm Springs International Airport.

All schools in Palm Springs Unified School District, including Palm Springs High School, are closed through April 30.

The boxing club allowed for about 50 people to stay overnight with just inches between each client. With Gov. Gavin Newsom ordering Californians to stay at home and practice social distancing, which means keeping 6 feet in between each person, that significantly lowered the number of people the center could serve.

Moving to the high school gym allows the shelter, which is co-operated by the city and Riverside County, to again serve up to 50 people but with appropriate social distance. Staff are also questioning people as they walk in about any possible symptoms of illness they might have. The shelter will continue to be open from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

About 30 to 40 people have utilized the shelter each night in the past week, Kors said.

So far, 60 homeless individuals in Riverside County have been placed in a temporary hotel/motel unit, Rodriguez said, as part of Newsom's \$150 million plan to address the specific needs of homeless individuals in California amid the pandemic.

There are four participating hotels in the Coachella Valley — two in Palm Springs, one in Indio and one in Palm Desert.

“We are trying to feed some of these shelter clients into the hotel/motel voucher program,” Rodriguez said. “The hotels provide 24-hour shelter, individuals are more isolated and that allows our staff to work with individuals to get them into permanent housing.”

The hotel/motel housing is effective until Newsom's stay-at-home order ceases. Case workers will work with individuals to help them transition to long-term housing while staying in the temporary unit. For those who aren't able to secure housing during that time, they will be back on the streets without a home.

Patients exposed to Riverside doctor tested

After a physician at Riverside Medical Clinic's Day Street office tested positive, the county held testing at the clinic over the weekend. A total of 41 of the physician's patients were tested Saturday, and 31 more had been tested as of 4 p.m. Sunday. None of the tests had returned.

Riverside County spokesperson Jose Arballo said the county has worked with the clinic to track down all potential exposures and feels confident it's tested all patients who may have come into contact with the doctor.

San Bernardino County firefighters test positive

A firefighter at the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District and another at the Montclair Fire Department tested positive for the coronavirus Sunday.

"Both of them are doing well at home with minor symptoms," All Hazard Regional Incident Management Team spokesperson Battalion Chief Steve Tracy said. "They'll stay in quarantine until which time they test negative."

Last week, 18 firefighting agencies in the county announced they were joining forces to provide emergency services during the pandemic, but it was unclear as of Sunday evening how many other personnel had contact with the two staff who tested positive.

Palm Springs installs hand-washing stations

Elsewhere in Palm Springs, portable hand-washing stations have popped up downtown as part of the ongoing effort to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Two portable bathroom and hand-washing stations were installed to provide sanitary options for people who may not have access to these types of facilities otherwise, Kors said.

"There are people who need to use the restroom and wash their hands, whether that's the homeless population or just people out on a walk, so we added these two on the north side and south side of downtown," Kors said.

The stations are at N. Palm Canyon Drive and Alejo Road, and near Baristo Road and Indian Canyon Drive. Both were up and running on Wednesday. Kors said the city paid for the facilities, which are cleaned daily.

The stations will cost the city about \$2,000 a month, said Palm Springs City Manager David Ready.

The stations are set up in view of public safety cameras to allow Palm Springs Police to monitor them from their station and send extra patrol if needed.

In addition to the two portable stations, Kors said the public bathroom near N. Palm Canyon Drive and Tahquitz Canyon Way is still open to the public. It is tucked into the center of the courtyard near the Starbucks Reserve, and across from Full Psyche.

Coachella Valley city-by-city breakdown

Riverside County is now releasing city-by-city breakdowns of cases. While the county's first cases were reported in the Coachella Valley, the region now accounts for about one-third of the county's total cases as the number has risen in cities in western Riverside County. Of the 38 new cases reported Sunday, 15 (39%) were reported in Coachella Valley cities.

Between Saturday and Sunday, the number of confirmed cases in Palm Springs rose from 18 to 22.

Three additional cases were reported in both Indio (11) and La Quinta (8).

Two additional cases were reported in Rancho Mirage (11). Indian Wells, which previously had no cases, now has two.

Confirmed cases in Cathedral City increased from four to five between Saturday and Sunday.

Totals for Palm Desert (13) and Desert Hot Springs (4) remained the same.

Coachella still has no confirmed cases, according to county health officials.

Other local counties: Cases so far

San Bernardino County officials on Saturday reported 12 new cases at a Yucaipa nursing facility, bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases in the county to 76.

An 89-year-old woman with underlying health issues who died from the illness on Thursday was a resident of the facility.

County health officials on Saturday said a resident of a second Yucaipa nursing facility was presenting symptoms of the virus.

"This is the first instance we have had in our county of a concentrated COVID-19 outbreak," Acting County Health Officer Dr. Erin Gustafson said in a statement. "The county will do everything within its ability and authority to minimize the tragedy this pandemic has the potential to create in our communities."

The county is planning to test all residents and employees at both facilities.

The death toll in San Bernardino County remains at three, as of Sunday evening. Of the 76 total cases, there have been about twice as many confirmed cases among people ages 18 to 49 as among people over age 65.

In Imperial County, the public health department reported 25 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of Sunday morning. This is an increase of four cases from Saturday, according to a release from Imperial County Public Health Department.

California state parks closed to vehicles

The California Department of Parks and Recreation on Sunday announced that it was shutting down vehicle access to all 280 state parks it manages. All campgrounds had previously been closed, and as of Sunday afternoon, 51 parks were completely closed to the public, mainly in Los Angeles and Mendocino counties.

"On Saturday, many state parks once again experienced visitation surges that made it impossible for the public to implement appropriate social/ physical distancing practices," the agency said in a statement announcing the move.

Popular local trails such as the Bump and Grind appear to be experiencing above average traffic.

The six state parks in Riverside County remain open, although closed to vehicles. The number of open parking lots and facilities around hiking trails in the Coachella Valley has already been dwindling. The Wildlands Conservancy previously shut down its facilities at Whitewater Preserve and the U.S. Forest Service did the same at its locations, although trails remain accessible.

Here's how you can get tested

In Riverside County, the COVID-19 testing site at the Southwest Church in Indian Wells will be relocated to the county fairgrounds in Indio. Testing there will begin on Tuesday in parking lots 5 and 5A off Arabia Street (between Highway 111 and Dr. Carreon Boulevard).

Drive-up testing will be offered between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Residents must have symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat or congestion to make an appointment; call 800-945-6171.

A second testing location in Riverside County is available at Diamond Stadium in Lake Elsinore, Thursdays through Sundays, and appointments can be made by calling the same phone number.

Riverside health officials are working on setting up a third testing site in the Riverside area that will serve as a drive-up location for residents in western Riverside County.

<https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/health/2020/03/29/coronavirus-california-updates-palm-springs-area/2935551001/>

San Bernardino County Fire Agencies Join Together To Provide Services During Pandemic

BENJAMIN PURPER, KVCR News
March 27, 2020

San Bernardino County fire agencies are joining together to provide uninterrupted services during the coronavirus pandemic.

At a press conference in San Bernardino, county officials gave an update on how county fire agencies are working together to provide emergency services during the pandemic.

Eric Sherwin is a public information officer with the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

He says these incident management teams will coordinate the distribution of personal protective equipment for use in emergencies.

Sherwin: “Rather than having 18 separate agencies in the county placing orders and waiting for those orders to arrive, one of the functions this management team will do is provide a single ordering point and a single distribution point.”

Officials pointed out the possibility of a high percentage of firefighters being sickened or quarantined because of COVID-19, and how that could disrupt the stability of the emergency response system.

This partnership, they said, is to make sure that doesn’t happen.

<https://www.kvcrnews.org/post/san-bernardino-county-fire-agencies-join-together-provide-services-during-pandemic>