



August 17, 2021

## NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Michelle Corson, 661-868-0288

### **Kern County Public Health Announces Latest COVID-19 Facts**

- There are 335 newly reported confirmed cases in Kern County, bring our total confirmed cases to date to 118,360.
- There are no new deaths being reported today, but there have been 1,436 COVID-19 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- The 14-day case rate is 26.45 per 100,000.
- As of August 16, 692,426 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Kern County residents. 331,528 or 43.9% of Kern's eligible population have been *fully* vaccinated against COVID-19.
- As of August 16, Kern County had 187 COVID-19 related hospitalizations and 37 were in the ICU.

In the most recent three weeks there has been a 69.9% increase in first doses of the COVID-19 vaccines administered in Kern County. Vaccination appointments for individuals aged 12+ can be made by visiting [myturn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov).

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise, our contact tracing team is working to identify and notify people who have tested positive or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Public Health urges people to answer the call or respond to the text survey to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. You will never be asked for information about your finances or payment options, social security number, or immigration status. Learn more about contact tracing by visiting the state's website:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-on-Isolation-and-Quarantine-for-COVID-19-Contact-Tracing.aspx>

“Staying in overall good health by eating well and regularly exercising are all layers of protection that we encourage our community to use to limit the transmission of COVID-19,” said Brynn Carrigan, Director of Kern County Public Health Services. “Eat a balanced diet, load up on fruits and veggies, and limit sugary beverages. This will help lower your risk for obesity, type 2 diabetes and heart disease – conditions that also make you at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.”

Visit our website [www.kernpublichealth.com](http://www.kernpublichealth.com) to stay informed on COVID-19.

###