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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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

- There are 349 newly reported confirmed cases in Kern County bringing our total confirmed cases to date to 138,233.
- There are no new deaths being reported today and a total of 1,540 COVID-19 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- The 14-day case rate is 30.77 per 100,000.
- As of September 27, 787,180 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Kern County residents. 377,182 or 50% of Kern's eligible population have been *fully* vaccinated against COVID-19.
- As of yesterday, Kern County has 263 COVID-19 related hospitalizations and 74 are in the ICU.

### **Monoclonal Antibodies**

Recently the Federal government reported a nationwide shortage of monoclonal antibodies, or laboratory made antibodies to help prevent severe illness. This declaration was accompanied by a pause in the ability for providers to order treatment. Starting last week, local Public Health Departments receive weekly allotments of the treatment to disburse to administering sites. We established an online process for treatment providers to submit their orders.

Additionally, we have been working with the State to bring on four state-sponsored dedicated monoclonal antibody treatment sites. The allotment for state-sponsored monoclonal antibody treatment sites is separate from the local Public Health Department allotment, meaning each state-sponsored site brings additional treatment capacity. The State has deployed the staff and monoclonal antibodies for Kern Medical, the first of the four sites and it is anticipated to open later this week.

To learn more about monoclonal antibody treatment and if you qualify, talk to your healthcare provider or visit the CDC [website](#).

### **Expanded COVID-19 Testing**

Due to the recent increase in demand for testing, Public Health has worked with the State to deploy 3 additional new free COVID-19 testing sites; one in Bakersfield, one in Delano, and one in Tehachapi. Additionally, we have added COVID-19 testing as a free service to one of our mobile COVID-19 vaccination units. Visit [www.kernpublichealth.com](http://www.kernpublichealth.com) to view an interactive map of local testing locations.

### **New State Public Health Order**

CDPH has posted a [public health order](#) requiring COVID-19 vaccination providers to request patients' email addresses and mobile phone numbers for the state's immunization registry. This information allows [My Vaccine Record](#) to generate and send a secure link to individuals requesting their digital vaccination records to replace lost or unavailable records or provide a portable and reliable vaccine verification. Without this information, vaccine recipients are not able to quickly access their digital vaccine records.

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