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NEWS RELEASE

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Kern County Public Health Announces Latest COVID-19 Facts

- There are 1,620 newly reported confirmed cases in Kern County bringing our total confirmed cases to date to 204,686.
- There are 3 new deaths being reported today and a total of 1,977 COVID-19 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- The 7-day case rate is 175.3 per 100,000.
- As of yesterday, 1,096,988 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Kern County residents. 456,712 or 53.4% of Kern's eligible population have been *fully* vaccinated against COVID-19.
- As of yesterday, Kern County has 309 COVID-19 related hospitalizations and 53 are in the ICU.

We continue to review the State's modeling for planning purposes. The modeling is currently suggesting that Kern's peak of COVID-19 patient census in the hospitals will be tomorrow with 337 COVID-19 patients. State models can be found [here](#).

Our pre-hospital and hospital systems continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, two State-staffed teams are in Kern County that have expanded both regular and ICU hospital bed capacity at Kern Medical and Adventist Health Bakersfield and Delano. This expansion has provided approximately 25 ICU beds and 15 med-surge beds to Kern's capacity. It is anticipated this staffing will remain through February, at which time needs will be reassessed. A third State-staffed expansion team is expected to arrive tomorrow at Good Samaritan hospital to expand Kern's capacity by an additional 14 ICU beds and 18 regular hospital beds. This expansion is expected to be operational by this weekend and will be in place through March 31, at which time needs will be reassessed.

We also have three State-staffed strike teams consisting of 6 nurses and 6 paramedics on each team assigned to the emergency department in three hospitals to assist with offloading patients from ambulances and patient care in the emergency room. These teams are expected to be in Kern through the end of February, at which time needs will be reassessed. Additionally, we have ambulance strike teams consisting of 11 ambulances with 22 crew members, with an additional 10 paramedics currently headed to Kern to assist with ambulance response to 911 calls in Kern.

Individuals are not *required* to report COVID-19 home test results to Public Health. However, home test kits *recommend* an individual that tests positive to contact their healthcare provider and report positive results by following the instructions on the home test kit or to Kern County Public Health at [www.kernpublichealth.com/covidhomerests](http://www.kernpublichealth.com/covidhomerresults).

In addition to our countywide infrastructure of partner testing sites, we coordinate mobile COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites throughout the county and a map with this information can be found on our website www.kernpublichealth.com.

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