

October 2nd, 2020

The summer of 2020 was a memorable one for Stanislaus County, not for the usual summer memories we form, but for a COVID-19 surge that stretched our laboratories, hospitals, and public health response. Now that we have again flattened the curve and continue to see decreasing daily case counts and hospitalizations, we want to take every possible action to keep COVID-19 from spreading freely. Widespread testing is essential to understand where and how COVID-19 is moving through our communities.

Early identification of people infected with COVID-19 is key to stopping spread and protecting their families and all those they may come into contact with throughout the day. This is what we must do to move into a less restrictive tier, get our children in school, and get our businesses open and keep them open.

Who should get tested?

- If you have symptoms of COVID-19
- If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
- If you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 such as
 - You attended a gathering
 - You work in a place with frequent interaction with the public
 - You work in an environment where you cannot always keep 6 feet away from others

Testing is currently widely available in Stanislaus County with an average two-day turnaround time for results. Visit stancounty.com/coronavirus for testing site information. COVID-19 guidance has changed frequently throughout this pandemic and will change again as we learn more and as resources change. We know this can be frustrating and wish there was some way to guarantee that testing guidance will not change, and the resources needed for testing will continue to be widely available, but there are uncertainties.

Please know that we are taking all possible actions to ensure that resources are available in Stanislaus County and we will continue to communicate as guidance changes to reflect new information and available resources

Sincerely,

Julie Vaishampayan, MD, MPH, FIDSA
Stanislaus County Public Health Officer