

COVID-19 2020 Timeline

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus first identified in 2019. COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through close proximity to an infected individual, and it is occasionally transmitted through contact with an infected surface. Symptoms typically appear 2-14 days after infection and include fever, chills, coughing, shortness of breath, headache, muscle aches, vomiting or diarrhea, and loss of taste or smell. While some infected individuals experience no symptoms, cases can range from mild incidents to severe illness requiring hospitalization or even death. This timeline presents major events related to COVID-19, as well as important actions Sacramento County Public Health took to identify and prevent COVID-19 cases.

March 4 – COVID-19 SCPH website is launched. Placer County Grand Princess Cruise Ship passenger becomes California's first COVID-19 linked death.

March 5 – County declares public health emergency.

March 9 – Elk Grove Unified School District cancels one week of school after student tests positive for COVID-19.

March 10 – First COVID-19 death in County is reported.

March 19 –SCPH Health Officer (HO) Dr. Olivia Kasirye and CA Governor Gavin Newsom issue shelter-in-place orders for the County and California, respectively.

March 24 – SCPH DOC opens mobile testing site at Cal-Expo.

May 8 – California enters Stage 2 of easing shelter-in-place orders.

May 22 – Sacramento County given approval to accelerate further through Stage 2.

May 28 – SCPH DOC tests 10,000th person at Cal-Expo.

July 1 - County placed on state monitoring list after 10% increase in COVID-related hospitalizations for more than three consecutive days.

July 12 – County surpasses 100 total COVID-related deaths as case rates rapidly increase throughout July. Sept. 1 – County begins in Purple Tier for re-opening.

Sept. 29 – County moves into Red Tier of State Blueprint.

Nov. 20 – Sacramento County returns to most restrictive Purple Tier of State Blueprint.

January

Jan. 15 - Sacramento

County Public Health

Department Operations

response to 2019-nCoV

(later COVID-19) threat.

(SCPH) opens

Center (DOC) in

Jan. 27 - First

COVID-19.

Sacramento County

resident is tested for

February

March

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Feb. 21 – First travelrelated COVID-19 case in County is confirmed.

Feb. 26 – First COVID-19 cases in California linked to community spread treated at UC Davis Medical Center. April 4 – Mobile Integrated Healthcare Unit is deployed.

April 10 – SCPH Epidemiology launches COVID-19 Dashboard.

April 20 – State Sleep Train Alternate Care Site is opened. First patients are admitted 7 days later.

April 24 – County surpasses 1,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

April 28 – California announces 4 stage plan for easing shelter-in-place orders.

Aug. 5 – County surpasses 10,000 total COVID-19 cases.

Aug. 20 – SCPH HO order closes all schools in Sacramento County.

Aug. 28 – California announces Blueprint for a Safer Economy for reopening California. Oct. 13 – SCPH HO orders loosen restrictions on school reopening.

Oct. 15 – SCPH submits Equity Targeted Investment Plan for eliminating disparities in COVID-19 transmission rates.

Oct. 17 – County surpasses 25,000 total COVID-19 cases and 500 total COVID-related deaths.

Oct. 26 – SCPH launches Qualtrics solution to streamline COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing with automated outreach via SMS or email.

Dec. 11 – FDA approves
Pfizer vaccine for
COVID-19 in individuals
16 years of age and
older.

Dec. 12 – Frontline healthcare workers are eligible to receive vaccine in County.

Dec. 18 – FDA approves Moderna vaccine for COVID-19 in individuals 18 years of age and older.

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