



Press Release

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City of South El Monte Addresses False Rumors of Coronavirus Quarantine at Greater El Monte Community Hospital

South El Monte, California, - As the Coronavirus continues to be a constant topic of coverage in the media and internet, the City of South El Monte would like to clarify the false rumors circulating that the Greater El Monte Community Hospital is staging its parking lot to serve as a quarantine location.

The following statement from the Greater El Monte Community Hospital confirms as such:

“Greater El Monte Community Hospital has not treated any confirmed cases of COVID-19. We will continue to screen all patients entering our facility for signs and symptoms of communicable diseases and implement infection prevention and control practices to protect our patients, visitors, and staff. We are in close communication with the CDC and WHO to follow their recommendations to ensure patient safety. We encourage everyone in the community to follow basic infection prevention practices, including washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand rub, covering your cough, avoid touching your eyes, face, and mouth, and avoiding close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms. Our emergency management team prepares year-round to respond to events that impact community health and well-being – including virus outbreaks, natural disasters, etc. - to ensure that we are here for you when you need us most,” said Jose Ortega, Chief Operations Officer for Greater El Monte Community Hospital.

In response to new cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) with known origins related to travel, not community transmission, Los Angeles County recently declared a Level Three local emergency. As such, City staff have been regularly monitoring the situation through conference calls with Barbara Ferrer, PHD, MPH, MEd, Director of Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) and other subject matter experts who have been providing updates and sharing the steps Public Health is taking to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus. Staff are also monitoring national and global agencies including the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Staff will continue to follow the lead of the DPH and the CDC in implementing protocols for public spaces and in messaging to the community.

Mayor Gloria Olmos stated, “While we have concerns about potential impacts to our City operations, we are also very focused on the safety and well-being of our residents, employees, and businesses. Our City Attorney and City Manager are working with the City’s Emergency Response Team to work with other jurisdictions to determine the most appropriate action by our City should an exposed or infected individual be discovered nearby.”

The City encourages our community members to prevent the spreading of germs by following these guidelines:

- Avoid / Stay away from sick people;
- Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand cleaner;
- Keep hands away from eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Disinfect public counters, desks, common areas, phones, keyboards, etc.;
- Use disinfectant wipes identified for use against Influenza A&B and Coronaviruses;
- If you have symptoms (fever, cough, vomiting, difficulty breathing) stay home and call your doctor;
- Remain home until you have spoken with your doctor or health provider and are cleared to return to work; and
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.

For updates and information about the current numbers of cases in the United States and in Los Angeles County, the spread of the virus, severity, treatments, precautions, and other important public health information in multiple languages, please visit:

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

For questions or to learn more about South El Monte, contact City Hall at (626) 579-6540.

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The City of South El Monte, “The City of Achievement” is a vibrant and thriving community, located in the heart of the San Gabriel Valley, just minutes from downtown of Los Angeles. Our community members are the heart of South El Monte and for that reason, the City of South El Monte is always striving to enhance the quality of life and provide exceptional service. For more information on the City of South El Monte visit www.cityofsouthelmonte.org.