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Riverside County health officials declare local health emergency

County of Riverside Public Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser today declared a local health emergency, citing the county's first locally acquired case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) that was announced yesterday.

The public health emergency declaration will support the county's planning and response efforts and is a signal to the community that the disease has been introduced to the area.

Earlier this week, Riverside County officials activated the medical health department operations center to better coordinate public messaging and planning among community partners as Riverside County officials prepare for the spread of the illness.

The emergency declaration is set to be ratified by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors at their regularly scheduled Board meeting on Tuesday, March 10.

The county has two COVID-19 cases overall. The other case is a Riverside County resident who was a former passenger on the Diamond Princess cruise ship. That individual is recovering at a Northern California medical facility and has not returned to Riverside County since leaving the cruise ship.

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