County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 Emeline Ave., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962
TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4000   FAX: (831) 454-4488   TDD: Call 711

Public Health Division

For Release:	**Immediately**	**Contact:**	Corinne Hyland, PIO
Date:	**September 16, 2020**	**Phone:**	(831) 566-4370

Santa Cruz County Reports an 8th COVID-19 Related Death

Santa Cruz County, Calif. -- The Santa Cruz County Public Health Division regrets to announce the death of an eighth resident due to COVID-19.

The resident, who died in their home, was a Hispanic male in his early 40s who lived in South County. While the individual had underlying health conditions, COVID-19 was the primary cause of death. The Public Health Communicable Disease Unit is investigating how he acquired the infection and contact tracing is still underway. The Public Health Division extends its deepest sympathy to the individual's family and friends.

Although the rate of new cases in Santa Cruz County is declining, the County is still seeing a disproportionate number of COVID-19 cases among residents of south county, as well as in the Latinx community. Those experiencing symptoms are encouraged to see their provider for testing and follow up care.

In addition, the Optum Serve testing site at Ramsay Park in Watsonville is open Wednesday through Sunday 7 a.m.–7 p.m. by appointment. Appointments can be made online by visiting https://lhi.care/covidtesting. Individuals without Internet access can call 888-634-1123 to arrange an appointment.

For questions, or more information call 831-454-4242 Monday through Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm or 2-1-1 outside of those hours.

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