



City of Cordova

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Explanation for Changes Made to COVID Dashboard

The Unified Command in collaboration with the Medical Response Team (MRT), has changed or removed some of the information provided on Cordova's COVID Dashboard, resulting in some community concern. It is recognized that other communities have different approaches to reporting COVID case counts and community vaccinations. Dr. Hannah Sanders, CEO, offered the following explanation for Cordova's changes in reporting:

1. Removal of Cumulative Case Counts – they do not give any sense of Cordova's natural immunity, as many of those included were 2020 seafood workers or visitors who are no longer part of our community.
2. Removal of Cumulative Vaccinations – where many new additions to our community have received vaccinations elsewhere, while some of our vaccines have been administered to those who no longer live here.
3. Cumulative deaths – this data point does not improve community safety.
4. Resident vs. Nonresident – we have found this distinction to be inaccurate, as many people identify as residents but don't live here year-round, while others state they are residents but have a summer address that is a cannery. For this reason, we have stopped designating resident/non-resident in our data collection.
5. Local hospitalization data—in a community as small as ours this metric risks not protecting individual privacy, while providing no increase in community safety. We understand that other communities have different interpretations of the disclosure guidelines around HIPPA, some more, some less stringent than our own.

If something changes with the outbreak and there is a safety concern, information will be adjusted to help citizens understand the current risk. MRT advises everyone that Cordova currently has community spread. Dr. Sanders cautions everyone to, “assume their neighbor, friend, cousin, coworker, and pet have Covid and behave according to the risk they are willing to take.”

Local health facilities do not believe further disclosure improves community safety or protection from this outbreak. Dr. Sanders added, “The best use of medical resources in the community to address the outbreak is providing COVID vaccinations, offering community testing when appropriate, and taking care of sick Cordovans.”

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