

Each day, Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) posts information regarding the COVID-19, including the number of positive cases in Ventura County. Up until April 20<sup>th</sup>, VCPH posted the number of positive cases by each city in the County. However, on April 21<sup>st</sup>, VCPH began posting the information by zip code. What this new information showed is that the 93065 Simi Valley zip code had almost 20% of the positive cases in all of Ventura County.

Simi Valley has consistently led the County in the number of positive cases. The City had asked the VCPH on several occasions why this is the case and each time received a very general response. However, with the reporting by zip code, it is apparent the number of positive cases are not distributed across the City equally. With the zip code information, we asked the question again. The VCPH believes the following are among the theories for the high number of positive cases in the 93065 zip code:

- The 93065 zip code has one of the highest populations of any zip code in Ventura County with over 75,000 residents. With the average zip code in Ventura County having 36,000 residents, the number of cases in the 93065 zip code (84 as of April 23) should be divided in half to get a fair comparison.
- Simi Valley was one of the first testing sites in Ventura County and benefitted from having more testing of its residents. There is also more public and private testing performed in Simi Valley than most other areas of the County.
- VCPH believes that the COVID-19 may have entered Ventura County through Simi Valley. If it entered the County through our town before social distancing and the Stay Well at Home Order was implemented, the virus would have spread easier and quicker in the community.
- There is a large number of First Responders living in Simi Valley that work in the Los Angeles area. They may have contracted the virus at work but the positive test is registered at their home address.
- Many of the employees of Simi Valley manufacturers live in the Los Angeles area. Many could have contracted the virus at their homes and spread it at their workplace in Simi Valley, before social distancing and quarantine took effect.

With this new information, VCPH will be digging deeper into the positive cases in the 93065 zip code to determine if there are any concentration of cases in one particular area or if any other factors are in play. We will continue to demand answers from VCPH to ensure the residents of Simi Valley have every reason to believe they are just as safe in the 93065 zip code as they would be in any other area of Ventura County.

In the meantime, I encourage everyone to practice social distancing, stay at home as much as possible, and follow the CDC's guidelines for personal hygiene. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that the spread of the COVID-19 virus is stopped as soon as possible.