



Public Health Division

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

For Release: Immediately

Contact: Corinne Hyland, PIO

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Phone: (831) 566-4370

ADDITIONAL COVID DEATHS

Santa Cruz County, Calif. – After more than two months without a COVID-related death, Santa Cruz County Public Health regrets to announce two new deaths related to COVID-19.

Both individuals were unvaccinated and in their 70s. One was a resident of the North County, the other of Mid-County. Both were confirmed to have the Delta variant, which has contributed to a rapid increase in cases both locally and nationwide. Each passed away August 2 in a local hospital, and their exposure was due to community spread.

“With the widespread availability of vaccines, we had hoped to avoid further deaths and serious illnesses due to COVID-19,” Health Officer Dr. Gail Newel said. “Unfortunately, that is not happening, and our health care system is being impacted once more. Vaccines are effective at preventing or minimizing COVID illnesses. If you have loved ones who have not been vaccinated, please urge them to do so as quickly as possible.”

The deaths were the 208th and 209th deaths in Santa Cruz County attributable to COVID-19. CDC data shows Santa Cruz County has a high level of COVID-19 transmission.

For local information on COVID-19, go to www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus. Residents may also call (831) 454-4242 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.