

# NAPA VALLEY

## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

### MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Terence Mulligan, President, Napa Valley Community Foundation  
707.254.9565 x 11

#### **UNINSURED NAPA COUNTY RESIDENTS CAN NOW BE TESTED FOR COVID-19 AT NO COST**

**April 7, 2020 – Napa, CA** – Napa Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) has partnered with the Napa County Public Health Division to eliminate financial barriers that might prevent uninsured or underinsured residents from being tested for the COVID-19 virus. A grant of \$100,000 has been issued from the Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund managed by NVCF to the Public Health Division. The grant will pay 100 percent of the lab costs for any person tested for COVID-19 by the County who is uninsured, underinsured, or otherwise unable to pay the \$52 lab fee.

“For our community to be safe, the Public Health Division must be able to administer COVID-19 tests to those who have a medical need for testing,” said County Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Relucio, who added that the County pays for testing while health insurance providers, both public and private, pays for lab results. “Unfortunately, quite a few of our most vulnerable residents in Napa County, who need to be tested, have no health insurance or are underinsured.”

Dr. Relucio noted that Napa County has deployed significant financial and staffing resources to combat the COVID-19 emergency, but couldn’t redirect government resources – already stretched thin by the unprecedented public health crisis – quickly enough to cover lab fees for uninsured residents. “We are very grateful to Napa Valley Community Foundation for filling this critical gap.”

The Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund has provided resources for short-term relief and long-term recovery to 25,000 survivors of the 2014 South Napa Earthquake and the 2017 Napa Fire Complex. To date, across these two most recent disasters, the Fund has distributed nearly \$18 million in the form of direct financial assistance to survivors, and to pay for relief and recovery services like temporary shelter, meals, medical care, counseling, legal aid, and assistance in navigating insurance claims. The Fund is managed by NVCF and was established with a \$10 million lead gift from Napa Valley Vintners following the 2014 South Napa Earthquake.

To make a tax-deductible gift to the Fund, please visit <https://www.napavalleycf.org/covid-19-giving/>

#### **About Napa Valley Community Foundation**

Napa Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) works side-by-side with local donors and nonprofits to tackle the most important challenges our Valley faces. Now celebrating 25 years of service to the community, the foundation has distributed more than \$50 million in grants to improve the quality of life for residents of the region, and currently serves as the philanthropic partner to thousands of individuals, families, nonprofit agencies and corporations in Napa Valley and beyond.

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