

For Immediate Release  
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**HARC to Conduct a COVID-19 Needs Assessment of the Coachella Valley**  
*The Survey Will Help Local Organizations Understand  
Community Needs and Social Distancing Behaviors and Attitudes*

**Palm Desert, CA (June 10, 2020)** — The world has forever changed as a result of the COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 or Coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic. Since March 7<sup>th</sup>, when the first confirmed case of COVID-19 was detected in the Coachella Valley, our community also changed. ***To understand some of these changes and the impact of COVID-19, HARC is launching a COVID-19 Needs Assessment Survey on June 10<sup>th</sup> to inform the health needs of the Coachella Valley.***

COVID-19 is an infectious disease, that has a wide range of symptoms.<sup>1</sup> After 2-14 days of exposure, fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, and many other symptoms can occur. Unfortunately, even death is a possible outcome of this disease. Even those who have not contracted COVID-19, however, have felt the impact of the pandemic. Shelter-in-place orders were initiated, and people stayed indoors while businesses around them were closed down. Now, it is not uncommon to go outside and see many people with face coverings and bottles of hand sanitizer.

**About the COVID-19 Needs Assessment Survey**

The COVID-19 Needs Assessment survey will help local organizations to understand some of the issues, behaviors, and attitudes surrounding COVID-19 in the Coachella Valley. The survey will be online and can be taken from a phone, computer, or tablet. Questions will include the topical areas of basic demographics, COVID-19 symptoms, shelter-in-place and social distancing behaviors, employment and financial needs, mental health, and resources utilized during the pandemic.

**Why Should People take the Survey?**

A lot of changes have occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and ***the Coachella Valley community can use this survey to describe and explain the issues they have experienced.*** The responses gathered will help many health and human service organizations to understand some of the mental health and financial needs that are most pressing in our community right now. The survey will also help organizations to understand the community's perception of sheltering in place and behaviors surrounding social distancing measures. Altogether, the information

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<sup>1</sup> Frequently Asked Questions. (2020). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Symptoms-&-Testing>

from this survey will be invaluable for the Coachella Valley. Local community members should participate in this survey, and local organizations should also encourage their constituents to participate.

### **Eligibility and Further Details**

Those who live in the Coachella Valley and are 18 years or older are eligible to participate in this survey. The survey is expected to take about 15 minutes and is completely anonymous. All survey results will be aggregated together and summarized at a group level. It is possible that individual quotes provided by community members will be used to supplement the data but will remain anonymous. The survey will be open until July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Participants will have a chance to win one of four \$100 Visa gift cards. The gift cards will be given away at random. If you want a chance to win the \$100 Visa gift card, you will be taken to a separate online survey, so your responses cannot be traced to your email.

To participate in the survey, please click or enter the link below in a web browser.

English Version: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CV-COVID-19>

Spanish Version: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CV-COVID-19-Spanish>

### **About HARC**

HARC is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization based in Palm Desert, CA. HARC provides research and evaluation services in the field of health, wellness, and quality of life. To learn more about HARC, visit [www.HARCdata.org](http://www.HARCdata.org)

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