CSAC Executive Summary for the multi-departmental Data Transparency project for the COVID-19 crisis.

Overview

The County tracked and published extensive data about COVID-19 infections, testing, recoveries, hospital beds, ventilators available, and more. One of only two Counties to do so.

Challenge

Reporting COVID-19 statistics has been expected since the early stages of the pandemic as a public service, and a way of surge planning, monitoring progress on flattening the curve, and determining the appropriate timeframe and needs for the reopening process. This project needed to align with the County leadership priorities. Public Health needs have been the highest priority during the COVID-19 outbreak. The goal of this project, being an innovative, data-driven, and transparent County was to accurately share this data with the community and to utilize the data for critical management of the crisis.

Solution

Using the https://www.vcemergency.com web site which has been a resource for the community as our response to the multiple Ventura County critical events, we built a dashboard with real-time data to report infections, testing, recoveries, hospital beds, ventilators available, and much more. The use of PowerBI and ESRI ArcGIS tools automated the process and have allowed the County to publish extensive statistics. The County reports statistics that have not been made available by most other Counties, such as the number recovered statistic.

Innovation

As noted, Ventura County is one of only two California Counties to provide this level of data transparency regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. By leveraging our existing web site as a

channel to share this data and utilizing extensive PowerBI solutions and regional relationships already in place within the Public Health agency, the Central IT Services GIS Team was able to work with ESRI to build the dashboard quickly. Addition collaboration was with the Sheriff Office of Emergency Services, the Health Care Agency, the CEO Public Information Officer, and private hospitals and labs in order to develop and automate the reporting tools.

Results

The goal of the project was to design and build a solution that provided data transparency to inform the community and facilitate management decisions related to the COVID-19 outbreak. The County has the lowest COVID-19 numbers of any of the southern California counties, and was the first to receive permission to proceed with the reopening process. We also received positive press coverage for reporting additional data such as recovery rates.

https://www.vcnewschannel.com/news/367-county-accelerated-reopening

Replicability

The solution built by Ventura County could be utilized by other Counties provided they have the data to link into the dashboard. The ESRI solution and the PowerBI structure could be shared with other California Counties.