

Mayor Victorino exposed to COVID-19 during meeting with opponents of public health emergency rules

Mayor Michael Victorino tested negative for COVID-19 this weekend after meeting days earlier in-person with three unvaccinated Maui County residents opposed to State and County emergency public health rules. Two of the three residents later tested positive for COVID-19.

Although the three residents had negative results for the virus prior to the meeting on Thursday, one of the attendees began experiencing symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19 on Friday. Another attendee also tested positive. Mayor Victorino learned of the exposure through a social media post late Saturday.

“I am disappointed that no one reached out to my office to immediately let me know of the positive test,” Mayor Victorino said. “That was irresponsible, and could result in the spread of the disease by myself and several executive staff members. We only found out about the exposure because of a social media post.”

Mayor Victorino and members of his staff who attended the meeting were tested for COVID-19 and found to be negative. Executive staff members were fully vaccinated.

The group of residents sought the in-person meeting with Mayor Victorino to advocate for a town-hall style public event with others opposed to State and County safety measures.

“As the administrative leader of this County, I have a duty to protect County employees and the public. Therefore, due to the risk of encouraging in-person group gatherings, I will not be participating in an in-person town hall style meeting, but I will continue to meet virtually with members of our community. I value all points of view.”