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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONROE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Monroe County Health Department Latest Update on COVID-19 Response

Monroe, Mich. March 18, 2020 3:30 p.m., Eastern Time Zone – The County of Monroe's response to the National Emergency Declaration and the State of Michigan's statewide state of emergency against the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Emergency response plan for public health has been activated and implemented.

Update on (COVID-19 Cases) in Monroe County-

The Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) confirmed the county count of positive Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases is two (2). Both individuals are adult females with history of domestic travel. Both individuals are isolated in their homes and are in stable condition. The MCHD continues working closely with the individuals to identify and contact others who may have been potentially exposed.

Other Testing Updates:

- Monroe County currently has seventy (70) residents being tested. Monroe County's population is 152,021.
- In the State of Michigan, there are 80 total positive cases of COVID-19; see table at bottom of press release.

Who Should be Tested for COVID-19:

1. Individuals with signs/symptoms of COVID-19 infection who are identified as having contact with someone else with a confirmed case of COVID-19 infection and are not members of the same household or congregate living situation as the confirmed case (unless as part of a public health investigation).
2. Individuals who become symptomatic while being in a 14-day monitoring and quarantine period (such as, but not limited to, monitoring due to travel from a region with widespread transmission).
3. Symptomatic individuals who are part of a public health investigation of a cluster of illness associated with a vulnerable population (e.g., long term care facility).
4. Symptomatic individuals who may be more likely to infect many of people or a vulnerable population (e.g., healthcare providers and those living in congregate settings like dorms, camps, long term care facilities).
5. Individuals presenting with severe illness requiring hospitalization or causing mortality and having no other identified etiology.

How To Get tested. What is the procedure:

- Individuals should contact their Health Care Provider (HCP) by phone if experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- COVID-19 symptoms may appear in as few as two (2) days or as long as fourteen (14) days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Do **NOT** arrive at the HCP, hospital, Urgent Care center or Public Health Department without prior communication.
- The HCP will notify the Health Department if COVID-19 testing is needed

- The Health Department will contact the individual to schedule the testing procedure
- The Health Department is **NOT** conducting COVID-19 testing at their facility. Do not go there.

Why the Need for Testing:

Testing of individuals who meet the criteria is imperative to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Close contacts of suspected positive individuals will receive a phone call by the Health Department for further monitoring. If individuals do **NOT** meet above-referenced criteria it is imperative they do not inundate the health care system by visiting the hospital, urgent care or HD. Health care resources need to be reserved for the most severe cases.

Practice Proper Personal Hygiene:
- Proper hand washing is vital in slowing the spread of the illness in our homes and community. Hand sanitizer can be substituted when soap and water is not available. Sanitizer should have a 60% alcohol strength solution.
- There is no vaccine for COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure to it. To do this, practice social distancing (maintaining 6 feet or more from other individuals) and limit gatherings with groups or large numbers of people.
- Older adults and those with underlying health issues are deemed to be at a higher risk of developing more serious complications. Underlying health issues such include; diabetes, heart disease and lung disease. These persons must take extra precautions to avoid gatherings. Call to check on your neighbor.
- Avoid contact with anyone who is sick. Do not be afraid to ask someone if they are feeling healthy.
- Every citizen is asked to be considerate of others. Stay home and away from others in your home if you are not feeling well. Cough into an elbow or sleeve
- It's important to take good care of yourself during this time, eat well, get plenty of rest, try to get some exercise (take a walk, etc..) and take a break from the news media which can sometimes generate further anxiety.

Update on Michigan Governor's Executive Orders

Executive Order 2020-12:
The Governor issued Executive Order 2020-12, temporarily lifting weight and other delivery-related restrictions for vehicles carrying essential supplies to mitigate the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The executive order is effective immediately and extends until Monday, April 13 at 11:59pm.

Executive Order 2020-13:

The Governor issued Executive Order 2020-13, to temporarily lift regulatory requirements on hospitals and care facilities and help ensure an adequate number of health care providers available to patients during the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Under the executive order, effective immediately and until Wednesday, April 15 at 11:59pm, The Michigan Departments of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) may take steps to ensure more people receive care. Executive Order 2020-13 grants LARA and DHHS authority to waive or defer certain requirements in order to expedite the process of bringing additional care facilities online during the COVID-19 emergency. The order also empowers LARA to ensure an adequate supply of care providers during the emergency by granting the department additional flexibility in its decisions about licensing, registration, and workflow requirements.

On Line Map to Find Meals During School Closures:
The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has launched an online map for families to find locations where meals are being provided during this period of school closures. The map can be found at: **www.michigan.gov/meetupeatup**, and will be updated twice each day during the closure period.

Food and Supplies:
Grocery stores continue to be open. Supplies are varied. Please do not hoard supplies or overstock. Supply chains are working to back fill existing shortages.

County Operations and Courts:
All Monroe County facilities including the Monroe County Courthouse continue to be restricted to the public except for the provision of essential public services only until further notice. This includes the Monroe County Courts. Visit the Monroe County Website for on-line information at www.co.monroe.mi.us

Additional Information and Resources:
Continue to rely on reputable sources for further information. These resources are listed below:

Reputable resources for COVID-19 updates can be found at:
www.michigan.gov/coronavirus and www.cdc.gov/COVID19.

Hotlines for Information:

Monroe County Hotline Number: 734-243-8600

Public Health Public Professionals are staffing the County Hotline. Call volumes are high at various times so please be patient as these calls are answered to provide the best guidance to our citizens.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services hotline number: 1-888-535-6136

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by County

County	Cases
Bay	1
Charlevoix	1
Detroit	13
Ingham	2
Jackson	1
Kent	5
Leelanau	1
Macomb	10
Monroe	1
Montcalm	1
Oakland	23
Otsego	1
Ottawa	1
St. Clair	2
Washtenaw	7
Wayne	10
Total	**80**