FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   PRESS RELEASE CONTACT: Kim Comerzan,
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MONROE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Monroe County Health Department Establishes Coronavirus Hotline

Monroe, MI, March 16, 2020 – The Monroe County Health Department has created a coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline to assist in answering questions from Monroe County residents. At this time, the hotline is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M-4:30 P.M.

The phone number for the hotline is: 734-243-8600

The hotline will be staffed by Monroe County Health Department personnel to answer general questions related to Coronavirus (COVID-19). The hotline is not for specific medical questions. Please continue to call 734-240-7832 with these questions.

"Our goal is to slow the spread of the disease and we are asking all citizens of Monroe County to limit large gatherings and maintain 6 feet of distance from other individuals as much as possible" stated Kim Comerzan, Health Officer of the Monroe County Health Department. "Social distancing is essential to prevent the additional spread of COVID-19," she added.

Additionally, the MCHD continues to encourage the public to be diligent in its efforts to reduce the spread of germs and protect everyone's health. Prevention measures include:

- **Washing your hands often. Scrub with soap for at least 20 seconds.**
- **Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Staying home when you are sick, except to seek medical attention when necessary. If you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (see below), call ahead to your primary care physician for instruction on how to proceed.**
- **Routinely cleaning and disinfecting frequently-touched surfaces.**
- **Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then discard. Immediately wash your hands.**
- **Practicing social distancing. This means keeping six feet between people as much as possible.**
- **Limiting attendance at large gatherings or community events.**

The Health Department is encouraging all Monroe County residents to gather information from reliable sources, such as the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Valuable and timely information is available at these locations.

MDHHS continues to operate its coronavirus hotline 8 A.M.-5 P.M., seven (7) days per week.
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services hotline number:
1-888-535-6136

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

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.