

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONROE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Monroe County Health Department Latest Update on COVID-19 Response

Monroe, MI, March 17, 2020 3:00 p.m., Eastern Time Zone – The County of Monroe continues to respond to the National Emergency Declaration and the State of Michigan’s statewide state of emergency response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Emergency response plan for public health has been activated and implemented.

First Confirmed positive (COVID-19 Case)-

The Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) confirmed the county’s first positive case of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on Saturday, March 14, 2020. The individual is an adult female with history of domestic travel. The lab test was conducted at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) laboratory and the results released by MDHHS.

The individual is isolated in her home and is in stable condition. The MCHD continues working closely with the individual to identify and contact others who may have been potentially exposed.

Other Testing Updates:

- As of this press release there have been 37 Monroe County residents being tested.
- Further, the County is assisting on four (4) other cases of persons who were in Monroe County at the time they reported illness but are not County residents. MCHD is helping facilitate the testing for these individuals.

Update on Michigan Governor’s Executive Orders

Executive Order 2020-11.

Issued March 16, 2020. The order bans all assemblages of more than 50 people in a single indoor shared space. A single indoor shared space includes but is not limited to a room, hall, cafeteria, auditorium, theater or gallery. This actions rescinds Executive Order 2020-05.

Executive Order 2020-9:

Issued March 16, 2020. The order went into effect no later than 3:00 p.m. on March 16, 2020 closed restaurants, food courts, cafes, coffeehouses, and other places of public accommodation offering food or beverage for on-premises consumption. It further closes bars, taverns, brew pubs and other places of public accommodation offering alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. Food service facilities are closed for dine-in service until March 30. Delivery, carry-out drive-through and grab and go service is still available, for those facilities that choose to use said services.

If you are feeling ill:

- If you are feeling ill with COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), you need to contact your primary care physician for guidance.
- Do NOT arrive unannounced with these symptoms to your doctor's office, urgent care or the hospital emergency room.
- 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.

COVID-19 Testing:

The Monroe County Health Department is **NOT** conducting COVID-19 testing. Health Department staff is assisting Health Care providers in facilitating these tests.

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.

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 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

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