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FOR RELEASE THE WEEK OF:
Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

First Positive Case of COVID-19 in Iroquois County Confirmed

The Iroquois County Public Health Department has confirmed the first positive case of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in an Iroquois County resident on March 26, 2020.

This individual was tested March 23rd by a medical provider. Laboratory confirmed results were received today.

The individual is a man in his 50's located in Iroquois County. The individual is at home, doing well, and cooperating with public health officials. He will remain in isolation per Illinois Department of Public Health guidance. At this time we are not providing any additional details on the individual. Public health officials are evaluating exposures and will notify those we determine to be at increased risk of exposure. The situation is fluid. Guidance and recommendations regarding patients under investigation may evolve as more is learned.

It is important to remember that even though there has been a confirmed case, this is not cause for panic.

The Iroquois County Public Health Department is working closely with Illinois Department of Public Health and numerous local organizations, including Iroquois County EMA, Iroquois Memorial Hospital, emergency responders (EMS, law enforcement, fire departments, 911 dispatch), and several long-term care facilities. Each morning these organizations are brought together virtually through the Iroquois County Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to conduct briefings, communicate needs, and coordinate efforts. This cooperation ensures Iroquois County's joint preparedness for and response to COVID-19.

We strongly recommend to continue social distancing and other safety measures which include:

- Stay home as much as possible with adherence to the Governor's Shelter at Home requirement.
- If gatherings are necessary, limit the number of people to 10 or less.
- Call to check on family, neighbors, and older adults instead of visiting.
- Check with your provider about telehealth options if you feel ill.
- Remember to continue using proper hand hygiene.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of the tissue immediately. If no tissue is available, sneeze or cough into your elbow.
- Do not shake hands. Instead, use another non-contact method to address others.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces often.

Most importantly stay home if you are sick! If you have a respiratory illness, stay home for 7 days after your symptoms started and for 3 days after your fever has stopped without the use of fever reducing medications, and your cough or sore throat symptoms have improved (whichever is longer). Avoid the emergency department and other places you seek healthcare if you are not severely ill, unless your doctor advises otherwise. Stay home and keep healthcare access available for others with more severe illness.

We recommend consulting with your doctor if you have the following:

- Fever, cough, shortness of breath or other cold or flu-like symptoms and do not feel better after three to four days. Use telephone, text, telemedicine or a patient portal to reach out rather than going to your doctor in person if possible.
- You are an older adult or have chronic health conditions of concern (heart disease, diabetes, lung disease) and are exhibiting mild symptoms.

Your provider will decide if you need medical care. You usually do not need to be tested unless you are admitted to the hospital.

ICPHD would like to thank our local partners for their diligent efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus within our community. We appreciate the cooperation and sacrifice of local businesses and community members at large in practicing social distancing. With no vaccine available, this is our best response to slow the spread of COVID-19.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and the Iroquois County Public Health Department will provide updated information and guidance as it becomes available on our Iroquois County Public Health Department Facebook page and website at <http://www.co.iroquois.il.us/covid-19-corona-virus/>.

For general questions about COVID-19 (Coronavirus) call the Illinois Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Hotline at **1(800) 889-3931** or, send an email to: **DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV** anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For information on actions you, your school, workplace, and community can take, please visit Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities at:

<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus/preventing-spread-communities>

For daily updates on COVID-19 in Illinois follow the IDPH Daily Updates page at:

<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus/media-publications/daily-press-briefings>

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