



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: March 22, 2020
To: All Media
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For Immediate Release

“Public Health Officials Announce Additional Case of COVID-19; Total 2 Cases in LaSalle County”

Ottawa, IL – LaSalle County Health Department (LCHD) has confirmed an additional COVID-19 case in LaSalle County. The case is a male in his 40’s with no history of travel or contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. The individual is recovering at home in isolation. Federal privacy restrictions prohibit the release of any additional information regarding this case.

Public health officials are in the beginning stages of the investigation and are working diligently to identify and investigate all individuals who were in contact with the case. No further information regarding the investigation is available at this time.

LaSalle County Health Department Administrator, Julie Kerestes said, “We want to remind LaSalle County residents that both confirmed cases are considered to be community acquired, which makes it clear that community spread of the virus is present throughout the county. We continue to work with our local and state partners in a collaborative response effort to COVID-19. The LaSalle County Health Department remains dedicated to protecting the health and safety of our residents and doing what we can to prevent further spread of the virus.”

The Health Department expects to see additional cases and residents need to assume that they have been exposed to COVID-19. Every single LaSalle County resident can help by staying home, limiting the number of people you are in contact with, maintaining a 6-foot distance from others, and washing your hands. If someone develops symptoms of cough and fever, they should stay home and isolate themselves from others. Should symptoms worsen, they should contact their healthcare providers immediately.

On Saturday, March 21, 2020, Governor Pritzker’s “Stay at Home Executive Order” went into effect until April 7, 2020. The order prohibits things like visiting the homes of friends and holding gatherings of any size. The order closes all non-essential establishments, including most retail, recreation, and entertainment businesses. It does not prohibit essential activities like going to the grocery store, taking your pet for a walk, or receiving medical care. Be mindful of those who are at a greater risk for contracting this virus, including older adults and those with certain health conditions. All of these measures will help reduce the number of people who become sick at any given time and the possibility of exhausting our health care resources. Stay home and stay healthy!

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The LaSalle County Health Department encourages residents to stay informed on the evolving situation. Get the latest guidance for school, employers and community preparedness by visiting [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#) or by visiting the Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org. For general questions about COVID-19, call the IDPH hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov.

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