Central Michigan
District Health Department
Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

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PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local News Media

From: Central Michigan District Health Department

RE: First positive Coronavirus (COVID-19) case in Central Michigan District Health Department's jurisdiction

Release Date: March 21, 2020

Central Michigan District Health Department confirms its first positive COVID-19 case. The Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) was informed of a positive COVID-19 case in a Clare County resident. No information is known about the case at this time.

"We hope for the speedy recovery of our resident. The Health Department is relying on our communities to work together, be vigilant, and take the necessary precautions to slow the potential spread of illness. We encourage the public to avoid panic and turn to reputable sources for information" said Dr. Jennifer Morse, Medical Director.

The Central Michigan District Health Department will be contacting those who have been in close contact with the patient and they will be assessed for symptoms and monitored appropriately. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Those experiencing these symptoms and who are at risk of infection (travel to areas with community spread or know exposure to an infected person) should call their healthcare provider before going in. Those most at-risk include older adults and those with chronic medical conditions, like heart or lung disease or diabetes. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, residents should wash their hands frequently for twenty seconds, cover coughs and sneezes, stay home when sick, touch their face less, avoid those who are sick and disinfect commonly touches surfaces.

Stay current on coronavirus information at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus; www.michigan.gov/coronavirus or https://www.cmdhd.org/novel-coronavirus.

In addition, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has a hotline number that Michigan residents can call to ask questions about COVID-19. The number is 1-888-535-6136 and is available seven days

a week from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Residents can also send an email to: COVID19@michigan.gov. Emails will be answered seven days a week between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org, LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @CMiDHD.

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To request an interview, please visit our website (cmdhd.org) and fill out the Media Interview Request Form.