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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hardin County, Iowa COVID-19 Update

Greenbelt Home Care/Hardin County Public Health continues to work with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and a number of other local agencies to contain the spread of COVID-19 in our community. As of today, Tuesday, June 23, 2020, there are 53 confirmed positive cases in Hardin County. Nineteen have recovered from COVID-19, are no longer considered infectious, and are now under the same recommendations as the general public. Currently, there are 26,307 confirmed positive cases in Iowa.

Please know while we may feel “over” the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), unfortunately, it is not done with us. Nothing has changed in the way this virus is transmitted. It is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk,

cough, or sneeze. Infection prevention is key. Recently many more young adults have tested positive for COVID-19. In

the last week, a majority of the new positive cases in Hardin County have been under the age of 25. While we recognize asking well community members to stay home is isolating, the need to protect others is greater, especially the

most vulnerable people in our communities, those who are 65 and older, are immunocompromised, have underlying medical conditions or live in nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

Businesses and entertainment venues have opened across Iowa, and some people are now considering where to

venture out after staying home for months. Society is looking for ways to resume to normal during this unprecedented

time, but unfortunately, we are assuming a certain amount of risk for ourselves, and those we are in close contact with

at home and work, in all public encounters. We know staying physically six feet away from others, covering coughs and

sneezes with a tissue or elbow, washing hands, not touching your face and wearing a face covering, when done

together, will lessen your risk for contracting COVID-19. We urge all businesses to institute these public health measures with staff and patrons and be flexible with allowing staff time off for illnesses. All of us share a great responsibility to protect our fellow residents, especially the most vulnerable people in our communities.

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

Mild symptoms may cause many people to think that it is not important to stay home, but it is. Respiratory illnesses can

be caused by a variety of viruses, but the community should consider it may be COVID-19 if they have any symptoms

and stay home. We appreciate everyone doing their part to stay home when experiencing any symptoms (fever or chills,

cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell,

sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea).

Greenbelt Home Care/Hardin County Public Health is grateful for the support from our community and appreciate residents understanding the importance of physically distancing six feet from others, wearing a mask, and communicating with us. Information about COVID-19 in Hardin County is available at coronavirus.iowa.gov

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