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Christian-Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency

New Release (3/20/2020 1130 hrs)

For Immediate Release

CHRISTIAN COUNTY RESIDENT TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

The Christian County Health Department was notified last evening on March 19, 2020 that a Christian County resident has tested positive for the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). This individual has been quarantined at their home since experiencing symptoms and is doing well at this time. This is the first laboratory confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in Christian County. This individual has been educated to not leave their home and has complied with quarantine procedures even before their COVID-19 test came back positive. Public health officials will not be releasing more specific details about this individual due to privacy issues.

Christian County Board Chair Becky Edwards has made an Emergency Declaration for Christian County. This is per the County Emergency Plan. This allows the County to request additional resources if needed.

Public health officials have begun an investigation of this case by speaking with individuals with whom this resident may have come into contact with before this diagnosis. During this investigation, public health may place other individuals on home quarantine if they are determined to have had significant exposure. Such individuals may not be symptomatic but could be quarantined for a period of time which allows symptoms to develop and pass without posing risk to others. If you are contacted by your public health officials, please respond immediately.

COVID-19 shares many symptoms with more common respiratory diseases. If you are experiencing flu like symptoms such as signs of fever, cough and/or shortness of breath please call your medical provider, your local prompt/urgent care, hospital emergency department, or your county Health Department for further guidance. Do not show up un-announced to your medical provider. The hospital have restricted access to their facilities. Should you need to contact 911 for any emergency, the 911 dispatcher will ask a series of questions and dispatch the help you need. Please follow their direction. In addition, Illinois Department of Health has established a 24-hour COVID-19 hotline at 1-800-889-3931.

Most individuals affected by COVID-19 will experience mild to moderate symptoms but some individuals – especially the elderly and those with chronic medical conditions – are at higher risk of getting very sick from this possibly life-threatening illness.

It is imperative we all immediately adhere to current CDC guidelines, which are to limit gatherings to less than 10 people, practice social distancing from each other at a minimum of six feet and stay home if you are sick. Please practice this important self-restraint and isolate yourself and your family now to benefit others as well as yourselves.

The public is asked to follow and share trusted sources of information on COVID-19. The spread of incorrect information during disease outbreaks can lead people to take actions which may not be beneficial to their own health or the health of others. Follow the CDC and IDPH websites for trusted information. Also, please watch out for your neighbors and community. Check on your neighbors that may be unable or afraid to go to the grocery store or run errands. We have to take care of each other during this crisis.

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