

GRAVES COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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"Where Your Health Is Our Department"

For Immediate Release

Date – 3-30-2020

From- Noel Coplen, Public Health Director

GRAVES COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES FIRST CASE OF COVID-19 IN GRAVES COUNTY

Graves County – The Graves County Health Department today announced the first confirmed case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Graves County.

- A Graves County resident in his 70's tested positive for COVID-19. He is in isolation in the hospital.

"Each day without a positive case, has been another day to prepare," said Kathy Gifford, Nurse Supervisor for the local health department.

As we anticipated, this case confirms the presence of COVID-19 in our region.

"I know Graves Countians and our organizations will step up their game to do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect their fellow citizens from the harm this virus can cause," commented Noel Coplen, Director of the local health department.

These cases reinforce the importance of actions the public can take to protect themselves and prevent the spread in the community.

What The Local Health Department is Doing:

To help limit the spread of COVID-19, social distancing steps have been taken by our community. This case is a good example of how to be a good neighbor. The man had been self-isolating by remaining at home and limiting contact with family therefore, reducing infectious contact with other community members.

What The Public Can Do:

- **STAY CALM:** You are not alone in this. Your community is here to support you. Talk to your friends and family and let them know if you are having concerns.
- **STAY APART:** Keep at least 6 feet away from others including while shopping for life-sustaining essentials. Avoid the lines by taking advantage of pick-up or delivery services for groceries and other goods.
- **STAY PUT:** Keep non-essential trips to a minimum and cancel your travel plans. Unless it is essential you go out, stay home.

Be mindful of those who are at greater risk for contracting this virus, including older adults and those with underlying health conditions. Those more at risk should ask others to help with their life sustaining activities, i.e. food, medications or other necessities.

Call your healthcare provider:

If you experience fever, cough, and shortness of breath (flu like symptoms), stay home and call your healthcare provider before going to a healthcare facility. Inform them of your symptoms.

For more information:

Go to KY COVID-19 website.

- [Kycovid19.ky.gov](https://kycovid19.ky.gov)

For general questions about COVID-19, call the KY COVID-19 hotline at 1-800-722-2725 or the Graves County Health Department at 270-247-3553

