

From: [Maribeth Leonard](#)
To: [lwteams](#)
Cc: [Karen Cascaddan](#)
Subject: New information regarding local COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 12:26:04 PM
Attachments: [Positive case press release.pdf](#)

Staff,

As we all seek to stay informed about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) we especially need to be aware of local developments related to this issue. Attached is a news release issued by the Jackson County Health Department that indicates Jackson County has had its first positive case.

Continue to take care of yourselves and we will continue to keep you informed.

Thank you.

Maribeth

Maribeth Leonard, MBA LBSW
Chief Executive Officer
LifeWays Community Mental Health

Proudly Serving Jackson & Hillsdale Counties

Phone: 517.789.1208 | Fax: 517.796-9426



LifeWays Community Mental Health, in partnership with our community and provider network, inspires hope and equips individuals on their journey toward recovery and wellness.



Jackson County Health Department

1715 Lansing Avenue • Jackson, MI 49202 • Phone (517) 788-4420 • Fax (517) 788-4373



Creating Healthy Communities

March 17th, 2020

**Contact: Rashmi Travis, MPH, CHES
Health Officer
(517) 517-768-1658
rtravis@mijackson.org**

For Immediate Release Jackson County has First Positive Case

Jackson, Mich., March 17, 2020 – Last night, Jackson County Health Department and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reported Jackson County’s first presumptive positive case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). The positive case is a 60 year old female with travel history. This individual will be closely monitored by the Jackson County Health Department. This person will be asked to identify close contacts and other lower-risk contacts so they can be notified and receive further instruction regarding isolation and testing if needed. Jackson County is providing additional, public information to inform the community about possible, lower-risk exposures.

“We will be closely monitoring all individuals with direct, personal contact with the identified cases, such as household contacts” says Rashmi Travis, MPH, Jackson County Health Officer. “In addition, we want our community to be fully aware of any possible, but lower-risk community exposures.”

As a precaution, Jackson County Health Department is asking anyone with the following symptoms of COVID-19 to self-isolate for 14 days and avoid potentially exposing others. Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. If you do have these symptoms with travel history or exposure to someone with travel history, call Henry Ford Allegiance Health My Health Care line at (313)874-7500 for screening and to schedule an appointment. Anyone arriving at the testing location without an appointment will be turned away.

“Please remember this is a time for us to support each other and work together to reduce any possible spread of illness in our community,” said Rashmi, Health Officer with Jackson County Health Department. “We understand this is a difficult time. We are working tirelessly to do all we can to protect the public’s health, and we ask for everyone’s continued cooperation and support.”

Working together to create and promote a healthy community through disease prevention and control, health education, environmental protection and emergency preparedness.

Please refer to official sources of reliable information about COVID-19. We continue to recommend prevention strategies to reduce the spread of germs and protect everyone's health.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Information from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is available in English, Chinese, and Spanish.

Prevention Steps include:

- Clean your hands often. Scrub with soap for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if you cannot wash.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care. Call ahead before going to your healthcare provider. Learn what to do if you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Immediately wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces.

Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. View additional prevention steps from CDC for people at higher risk. Consult with your health care provider for more steps you may be able to take to protect yourself.

The situation with COVID-19 is not static and changes quickly. For the most recent information, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>, <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>, <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/> or <https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/276/Health-Department>.

###