Franklin County Health Department

Franklin County Health Department Confirms Additional COVID-19 Case in Frankfort
Public risk exposure still considered low

The Franklin County Health Department (FCHD) has confirmed a second case of COVID-19 (2019 novel coronavirus) in a Frankfort/Franklin County resident. FCHD is continuing to work with Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH), Frankfort Regional Medical Center and Frankfort/Franklin County Emergency Management to identify and interview all those who may have come in contact with the infected person. These individuals will be monitored for fever and respiratory symptoms in the coming days. **Individuals not contacted by FCHD are considered as having no more risk than the general public at this time.**

Frankfort/Franklin County's first case was confirmed on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, a 61-year-old female. Due a recently received patient privacy (HIPAA) waiver, we can confirm that the second Frankfort/Franklin County case is a 39 year old male.

Franklin County Judge Executive Huston Wells stated, "We are all saddened to hear of another case of COVID19. We send our thoughts to the family. This is evidence of the seriousness of the virus. Please follow the CDC guidelines and safety precautions that are given to us."

Mayor Bill May added, "Today, it was confirmed that we have a second patient in our community who has tested positive for COVID-19. As I have previously said, we knew it was a matter of time that we would see more people who would test positive for COVID-19. We want the patient and the patient's family to know that we are praying for a complete and quick recovery. We are going to see more cases like this as community transmission becomes more common. We want everyone to be prepared and vigilant, not alarmed. It is extremely important that everyone follow the guidelines of social distancing, stay home if you can, wash your hands often, don't touch your face, cough into your elbow. We are taking the same decisive steps in every case to shut transmission down: isolate and test each suspected case, trace close contacts, and isolate and test them as well. Our public health team will continue to monitor this situation closely and keep us up to date on any changes."

"FCHD's number one priority at this time is keeping Franklin County healthy and containing the spread of the disease," said Judy Mattingly, Public Health Director of FCHD. "We are continuing to collaborate with Frankfort's health care providers and local and state officials to implement the latest guidelines recommended by KDPH and Governor Beshear to mitigate the spread throughout Franklin County and to keep the community's risk exposure low."

There is currently no vaccine for COVID-19 but CDC and KDPH health officials state everyone in the general public can protect themselves and other community members by practicing every day preventative measures:

- Wash your hands often and for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

At this time, the virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

People at **Higher Risk** for COVID-19 Complications include:

Adults **over 60** and **people who have severe chronic medical conditions like heart, lung or kidney disease seem to be at higher risk for more serious COVID-19 illness**. If you are at increased risk for COVID-19, it is especially important for you to take the following actions to reduce your risk of exposure:

- Stay at home as much as possible.
- Make sure you have access to several weeks of medications and supplies in case you need to stay home for prolonged periods of time.
- When you go into public, keep away from others who are sick, limit close contact (6 feet away) and wash your hands often.
- Avoid crowds.

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COVID-19 is an emerging disease and there is much more to learn about its transmissibility and severity. There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease. The best way to prevent illness and spreading the virus to those that are most vulnerable is to avoid exposure:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick (fever, cough, sneeze, and difficulty breathing). To avoid close contact, stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- CDC states that wearing a facemask will not protect the general public from COVID-19.
- Social distancing is **key** to keeping Kentuckian's safe.
- It is advised that **all** community gatherings be cancelled at this time.

To help answer the community's questions about COVID-19, please contact the COVID-19 community hotline at 1-800-722-5725. If you are sick and you need medical attention, please contact your healthcare provider or the hospital before visiting for additional directions.

Additional information, including frequently asked questions and guidance by topic, can be found at www.KYCOVID19.ky.gov and www.FrankfortEMA.org