



# Franklin County Health Department



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## **Franklin County Health Department Confirms First Case of COVID-19 in Frankfort**

The Franklin County Health Department (FCHD) confirmed a case of COVID-19 (2019 novel coronavirus) in a Frankfort/Franklin County resident. While the risk to the general public still remains low, health officials are working with Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH), Frankfort Regional Medical Center and Frankfort/Franklin County Emergency Management to identify and contact all those who may have come in contact with the infected person. These individuals will be monitored for fever and respiratory symptoms.

The patient, a person in their 60s, is the first person known to be infected with COVID-19 in Frankfort/Franklin County. Additional details about the person cannot be provided because of medical privacy laws.

“We believe the risk to the public is currently low, and as this situation evolves, we will continue to communicate with KDPH, Frankfort Regional Medical Center, Frankfort/Franklin County Emergency Management and the people of Frankfort/Franklin County,” said FCHD Public Health Director, Judy Mattingly. “The very best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, there are everyday preventative actions you can do to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.”

Franklin County Judge Executive Huston Wells said “We have just received word of our first positive case of COVID-19 in Franklin County. We are saddened by this news and this person and their family is in our prayers. We have known this was always a possibility to occur here and that is why we have been preparing so diligently. Our citizens need to heed the advice of the CDC, the Governor and our local health department on social distancing, proper hygiene, and remaining calm.”

Frankfort Mayor William May said “We knew we would eventually have a COVID-19 case in our community. Our thoughts are with the patient and their family for a complete recovery. This is all the more reason for everyone to follow the guidelines from Governor Beshear, and adapt those for local needs.

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[www.fchd.org](http://www.fchd.org)





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By following these guidelines, we can and will save lives. We must all stay calm, take care of one another, and take forceful steps to protect our community.

The health and safety of our most vulnerable is my top priority now. We have dealt with enormous challenges in the past and by working together we will all get through this. Please be considerate of each other.”

The health department offered these tips:

- 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.

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- Avoid crowds.

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 Franklin County Health Department at 502-564-7647. The COVID-19 Hotline is available by calling 1-800-722-5725. Please be patient as they are handling a high volume of calls. Additional information, including frequently asked questions and guidance by topic, can be found at [www.KYCOVID19.ky.gov](http://www.KYCOVID19.ky.gov) or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

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