

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 03-27-2020

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## Health Department confirms first Gratiot County presumptive positive COVID-19 case

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) has been informed of the first positive COVID-19 case in a Gratiot County resident.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department is working closely with the Gratiot County Incident Command/Emergency Operations Center and other Gratiot County agencies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department will be contacting those who have been in close contact with the positive case and they will be assessed for symptoms, monitored appropriately and be asked to self-quarantine.

We know that many residents would like us to release more information on those who test positive for COVID-19, such as gender, age and where they live. MMDHD has chosen not to release such information to protect the patient's privacy. Larger health departments, with higher populations, can release more descriptive information without fear of identifying the patient.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Those experiencing these symptoms should contact their healthcare provider for guidance.

As a reminder, anyone can get COVID-19, but those most at-risk include older adults and those with chronic medical conditions, like heart or lung disease or diabetes.

The Mid-Michigan District Health Department is relying on our communities to work together, to be vigilant, and take necessary precautions to slow the spread of illness. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, residents are urged to follow the Governor's Executive Order to "stay home, stay safe."

"Because of COVID-19's rapid spread through our communities, residents should assume that the virus is present when they are out in public," said Marcus Cheatham, MMDHD's Health Officer. "That is why it is so important to stay home unless it is absolutely necessary to venture out for prescriptions, food or other essential services."

Additional precautions people can take to avoid getting COVID-19 include: wash hands frequently for twenty seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes, stay at least six feet apart from others when in public, avoid those who are sick, stay home when sick, and disinfect commonly touched surfaces.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department will provide additional information as it becomes available. Please visit [www.mmdhd.org](http://www.mmdhd.org), [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus), or [www.cdc.gov/COVID-19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19) for the most up-to-date and accurate information.

*Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties.*

*We take action to protect, maintain and improve the health of our community.*

*Advancing innovative solutions to achieve healthier outcomes*

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