

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 1, 2020

www.mmdhd.org



COVID-19 cases jump in MMDHDs jurisdiction

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- The number of positive COVID-19 cases has risen quickly in Clinton County and doubled overnight in Montcalm County, and now that the virus is spreading easily in our communities, that number will continue to rise unless we all do our part to stop it.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) currently has 44 cases of COVID-19 in its jurisdiction: 31 in Clinton County, 10 in Montcalm County and 3 in Gratiot County. These numbers are rising so rapidly that by the time this press release runs, these numbers will most likely be obsolete.

“We really want to stress that even though we are reporting 44 cases in our jurisdiction, we know there are many, many more cases not yet diagnosed,” said Marcus Cheatham, MMDHDs Health Officer.

When people go out in public, they should assume that the virus is present. Some people may not have symptoms but are carrying the virus and are contagious. People are passing the virus to others without even knowing it. For this reason, MMDHD is urging all Michiganders to follow the Governor’s Executive Order to “Stay home, stay safe, save lives” and not leave home unless it is absolutely necessary to venture out for prescriptions, food or other essential services.

We would like our communities to know that we are closely monitoring all positive cases and that they are either quarantined or in the hospital. The Health Department also follows up with all of those who have been in close contact with positive cases. Close contacts of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 are assessed for symptoms and monitored by our Communicable Disease Nurses. If warranted, they will be asked to self-quarantine at home. For updated information on positive COVID-19 case counts in Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties, visit MMDHDs website at www.mmdhd.org or visit its Facebook page.

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.

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

In addition to following the Governor’s order to “stay home and stay safe,” everyone can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by practicing the following:

-more-

2- COVID-19 cases jump in MMDHDs jurisdiction

- wash your hands often for 20 seconds with soap and water
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- avoid handshakes
- keep at least six feet apart from others when in public
- avoid contact with people who are sick
- stay home when you are sick
- disinfect commonly touched surfaces often

While most Mid-Michigan District Health Department staff are working from home, we are still here to serve your needs. For clinic services, please call the appropriate branch office for more information: in Clinton County, call 989-224-2195 (option 5), in Gratiot County, call 989-875-3681 (option 5), and in Montcalm County, call 989-831-5237 (option 5). For Environmental Health services, call the appropriate branch office for more information: in Clinton County, call 989-227-3110; in Gratiot County, call 989-875-1002; and in Montcalm County, call 989-831-3603.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department will provide additional information as it becomes available. Please visit www.mmdhd.org, www.michigan.gov/coronavirus, or 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

###