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## Health Department reports first COVID-19 death in Montcalm County

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) is reporting its first death of a Montcalm County resident from COVID-19. The individual was an elderly male who was hospitalized at Spectrum Health United Hospital in Greenville and passed away on April 6.

One death related to COVID-19 was also reported on March 31 in Clinton County. No deaths related to COVID-19 have been reported in Gratiot County.

"On behalf of MMDHD, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the family. This is a tragic loss of life and our thoughts are with the family at this difficult time," said MMDHD Health Officer Marcus Cheatham.

As of Tuesday morning, April 7, MMDHD has a total of 95 positive COVID-19 cases in its jurisdiction: 73 in Clinton County, 6 in Gratiot County and 16 in Montcalm County.

Residents are urged to continue prevention efforts to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Wash hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds, cover you nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and avoid touching your face. Continue to "Stay home, stay safe" and venture out only if it is absolutely necessary to get prescriptions, food or other essential services. If you must go out, stay at least 6 feet away from others.

Everyone should take these precautions and assume potential exposure in public places.

Residents can call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 hotline with questions: 888-535-6136. For additional information, please visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus or CDC.gov/Coronavirus

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