



## Press Release

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# **Marshall County Health Department Confirms County's First Case of Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

The Marshall County Health Department has received notification of the county's first confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19). He is a 31 year old male in stable condition. While the risk to the general public is low, we are working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) to identify and contact all those who may have been exposed. These individuals will be monitored for fever and respiratory symptoms. We are working closely to ensure that any close contacts of the patient are identified and monitored and that all infection control protocols are being followed.

Privacy protection laws only permit the release of limited patient information. The health department is unable to release any additional patient information.

"With the help of our federal, state, and local partners, Marshall County Health Department is responding to this case as we have planned and prepared for weeks." said Joanna Colson, Clinical Director for the Marshall County Health Department.

"The State and Local Health Department has been preparing for weeks to ensure that we have the resources and systems in place to limit or prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Kentucky. Given the global spread of this illness, the question was never if Marshall County would have a case, but when it would arrive." Said Billy Pitts, Public Health Director for the Marshall County Health Department.

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, there are simple preventative actions you can do to help prevent the spread of this virus.

The Marshall County Health Department offers these tips:

- Wash your hands often 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 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.

Human coronaviruses most commonly spread from an infected person to others through:

- Respiratory droplets released into the air by coughing and sneezing;
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands;
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.

Individuals who are experiencing symptoms should first contact the Marshall County Health Department or health care provider.

if you have questions or need additional help, go to [kycovid19.ky.gov](https://www.kycovid19.ky.gov) , call the state hotline at 1-800-722-5725, call your medical provider, or call the Marshall County Health Department at 270-527-1496. Please see our Facebook page for the latest information.

This is an ongoing situation and is evolving rapidly. Marshall County Health Department will provide updates as new information become available.