



Press Release 3

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Marshall County Health Department Confirms County's Third Case of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Marshall County Health Department has received notification of the county's third confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID19). He is a 59 year old male and is self-isolating at home. There is no known connection with the other two confirmed cases. Since the source of exposure for the positive cases has been unknown, we can correlate that community spread of the virus is occurring in Marshall County.

As with the previous two cases, the Marshall County Health Department is completing contact tracing for this case. Contact tracing is a highly effective way to protect the public from infections. This is used to prevent the spread of infections and to provide rapid response to those who might be newly infected. It is a fundamental part of outbreak control, used by public health professionals around the world.

Once a patient has tested positive for the virus, work is carried out to identify anyone who has had close contact with them during the time they are considered to have been infectious. Those who test positive for coronavirus will speak to a clinician who gathers detailed information on places they visited and people they came into close contact with since they became unwell. This builds a very specific picture of the people who need to be contacted, such as family members or co-workers.

A close contact can be defined as someone living in the same household, someone who had direct or physical contact with an infected person, or someone who has been in close proximity for an extended period of time. People who have passed the patient in the street or in a store are at very low risk and will not be traced.

Privacy protection laws only permit the release of limited patient information. The health department will not release any additional patient information. Patient confidentiality must be protected. Contact tracing works with patients and maintains their confidentiality.

If you are sick with any symptoms, stay home and contact your primary care provider for guidance and next steps. If you are sick and need essential supplies, ask someone else to go to the grocery or pharmacy to get what you need. Individuals awaiting test results should self-isolate and wait to hear back from their medical provider.

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.

If you have questions or need additional help, go to 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.

Please note: This will be our last official press release regarding positive COVID 19 cases in Marshall County. From this point forward, we will put a daily update on our website and Facebook page by 4 p.m. Any positive cases that we receive after 4 p.m. will be reported the following day.