LE SUEUR COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

88 South Park Avenue
Le Center, MN 56057
Phone (507) 357-8246
Fax (507) 357-4223

PRESS RELEASE
March 22, 2020
Contact: Cindy Shaughnessy, Le Sueur County Public Health Director, 507-357-8246

First Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in Le Sueur County

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) notified Le Sueur County Public Health of a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 in Le Sueur County. The individual is in their 40s and is recovering at home. According to MDH, the individual was not hospitalized and no work exposures were identified.

Minnesota Department of Health staff are conducting the case investigation. Positive cases are isolated at home to prevent disease spread and the contact investigation identifies their close contacts. Close contacts are quarantined for 14 days from their exposure and monitored for fever and respiratory symptoms.

Governor Walz and MDH have implemented community mitigation measures to help slow the spread of COVID 19 in Minnesota. Slowing the spread will ease demand on the healthcare system. Le Sueur County Public Health officials encourage everyone to continue to follow the recommendations of medical experts on how best to protect themselves and contain the spread of this virus. Those recommendations include:

- Stay home if sick
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow
- Avoid touching mouth and face

In a majority of cases, COVID-19 causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. Call your health care provider if you have difficulty breathing or illness you cannot manage at home.

MDH has set up a public hotline that is open 7:00am – 7:00pm. Hotline number: 651-201-3920

Go to the CDC and MDH websites for the most up to date information about COVID-19:
CDC website on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
Minnesota Department of Health - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html