



LE SUEUR COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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PRESS RELEASE

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Le Sueur County COVID-19 case update and message from Le Sueur County Public Health

The number of positive, lab confirmed COVID-19 cases in Le Sueur County as of April 4, 2020 is 20 individuals. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) notified local Public Health of the first Le Sueur County case on March 22. Since that time, the number of positive cases in Le Sueur County has risen and Le Sueur County Public Health will provide the information we are able to release to help people better understand the local situation. MDH does not release specific case information in order to protect the identity and privacy of the individuals.

Aggregate data regarding the Le Sueur County cases that can be shared at this time include: None of the 20 individuals were hospitalized. 15 had traveled domestically. 17 had contact with a lab confirmed positive case. 3 of the 20 cases are considered community transmission since they did not have contact with a positive case. The ages of the lab confirmed cases range from 9 – 62 years with an average age of 38 years.

“The data tells us the majority of the Le Sueur County cases had a travel history but there are also cases of community transmission. Unfortunately testing is limited and does not give us the true picture of the number of cases. We know there is community transmission across Minnesota in all counties. Everyone must do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19,” says Cindy Shaughnessy, Le Sueur County Public Health Director.

The mitigation strategies that all of us must follow include staying at home, practicing physical separation (social distancing) of at least 6 feet when you leave the home for essential activities or when at work as an essential employee. You can go outdoors for exercise but stay 6 feet away from people you do not live with and do not gather. Cancel children’s playdates. We are all in this together and we must work together to protect our most vulnerable.

NEW: Governor Tim Walz unveiled a new COVID-19 dashboard that tracks the virus in MN and provides all of the latest data on available ventilators, ICU beds, personal protective equipment (PPE), and testing. Find the information online portal here: www.mn.gov/COVID19

NEW: The CDC is now recommending that everyone wear a cloth (homemade) face cover when going out in public to get essential supplies i.e. groceries. The purpose is to protect other people in case you are infected but asymptomatic. Do NOT use facemasks intended for healthcare workers. The face cover is NOT a substitute for social distancing. *How to protect yourself:* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

CDC COVID-19 website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

MDH COVID-19 website: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

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