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For Immediate Release

From: Cathy Hayden, Public Health Administrator

Date: March 30, 2020

Re: A case of COVID-19 has been confirmed in a Clark County resident

Clark County Health Department was notified on Monday, March 30, 2020 of a resident who tested positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19). The individual is a female in her 60's. This is the first laboratory confirmed positive of COVID-19 in Clark County. The individual is thought to be exposed to the novel virus through recent travel out of state. Illinois Department of Public Health, Clark County Health Department and the individual have all been notified and are monitoring the situation.

The patient required hospitalization and has been in self quarantine out of state. Clark County Health Department is investigating who may have been in close contact with the patient before being diagnosed. As is protocol, public health officials may place other individuals in home quarantine if they are determined to have had significant exposure. Such individuals may not be symptomatic but are quarantined for a period which allows symptoms to develop and pass, without posing risk to others. If you are contacted by public health officials, please respond promptly.

The number of COVID-19 cases in Illinois has risen dramatically over the past week and will continue to rise as more exposures occur. County and municipal officials stress that everyone should follow the state's Stay at Home order. Stay at home unless you absolutely must leave. If you leave, please practice social distancing and stay at least 6 feet away from people.

If you have a cough, shortness of breath, or a fever, call your regular primary care provider. DO NOT walk in. The staff will triage patients over the phone and decide the best course of action for the patient. This could include remaining at home and monitoring symptoms, or in severe cases, possible referral to the Emergency Department.

The public is asked to follow and share trusted sources of information on COVID-19. The spread of incorrect information during disease outbreaks can lead people to take actions which may not be beneficial for their own health or the health of others. Follow the CDC and IDPH websites for trusted and reliable information. Public Health officials will not be releasing more specific details about this individual due to privacy issues.

For reliable, updated information about COVID-19 visit:

IDPH website: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-1-z-list/coronavirus> or on the

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

State of Illinois also has a HelpLine 1-800-889-3931 or by email dph.sick@illinois.gov

You may also contact the Clark County Health Department at 217-382-4207 www.clarkhd.org