March 31, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Daily Update: March 31, 2020
First Two Cases of COVID-19 identified in Branch County Residents

Coldwater, MI – The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency (BHSJCHA) is providing updated information for cases in the tri-county area as of 3 pm today which includes the first identified cases in Branch County residents.

The number of positive cases in the 3-county jurisdiction as of 3 pm today includes 4 cases in St. Joseph County, 15 cases in Hillsdale County, 2 cases in Branch County and 8 at Lakeland Correctional Facility in Branch County. Total cases statewide, from data compiled by MDHHS at 10 a.m. this morning and released at 3 pm today, are 7,615 with 259 deaths attributed to COVID-19. BHSJCHA remains committed to thorough investigation and communication with all individuals affected by COVID-19. The staff at BHSJCHA adhere to the MDHHS guidelines for testing and follow best practices for contract tracing and strictly adhere to patient privacy as required by HIPAA.

Counts by County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Branch County</th>
<th>Hillsdale County</th>
<th>St. Joseph County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Positive Cases</td>
<td>2 + 8*</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Deaths</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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*Cases in Lakeland Correctional Facility

Today, BHSJCHA is also providing a new infographic for residents in Branch, Hillsdale, and St. Joseph counties that explains testing and treatment for COVID-19. “We want to assure
everyone that limited testing does not change the treatment, and share that testing does continue to be limited due to a lack of testing supplies. People can take charge of their health by following guidelines for isolation and quarantine if they have symptoms and by practicing social distancing and following the Stay Home, Stay Safe guidance.” states Rebecca Burns, Health Officer.

BHSJCHA is asking anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 to self-isolate for 14 days to avoid potentially exposing others. And for individuals that have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, to self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor themselves for fever, cough, and shortness of breath. COVID-19 symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, people should:

- **Stay Home. Stay Safe. Save Lives.** in compliance with Governor Whitmer’s Executive Order
- Wash their hands
- Stay home when sick
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Avoid touching their face
- Disinfect commonly touched surfaces
- When you must go out for groceries and other necessary supplies; only those people absolutely needed for the task should go, others should stay home.
- Keep six feet between yourself and others
- Work from home if you are a non-essential worker

People who are concerned that they may have COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider and **call ahead** before visiting any healthcare facility. Mildly ill people are encouraged to stay home and contact their healthcare provider by phone for guidance. If you feel well, you do not need to be tested. Testing is determined based on risk assessment.

Information about the COVID-19 situation locally, and in Michigan is rapidly changing. For more information, visit [www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org).

BHSJCHA is committed to promoting wellness, preventing disease, providing health care, and protecting the environment. For additional information, contact your local health department office or visit [www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org) and follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BHSJCHA](http://www.facebook.com/BHSJCHA).
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<tr>
<th>Branch County</th>
<th>Hillsdale County</th>
<th>St. Joseph County</th>
<th>Sturgis Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>570 N. Marshall Rd.</td>
<td>20 Care Drive</td>
<td>1110 Hill St.</td>
<td>1555 E. Chicago Rd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coldwater, MI 49036</td>
<td>Hillsdale, MI 49242</td>
<td>Three Rivers, MI 49093</td>
<td>Sturgis, MI 49091</td>
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<tr>
<td>(517) 279-9561</td>
<td>(517) 437-7395</td>
<td>(269) 273-2161</td>
<td>(269) 273-2161</td>
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<td>Wednesday – Friday</td>
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