April 2, 2020

Contact: Rebecca Burns, Health Officer
517-279-9561 ext. 148
H. Lauren Vogel, DO, Medical Director
260-316-6222

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Daily Update: April 2, 2020
Second Death Attributed to COVID-19 in the Tri-County Area

Coldwater, MI – The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency (BHSJCHA) received notification today of the second local death attributed to COVID-19. The individual was an adult male with several underlying health conditions from Hillsdale County. “Our heartfelt sympathies and prayers go out to the family who have lost their loved one,” says Rebecca Burns, Health Officer. “Every additional positive case and death reminds us to all do what we can to stay home, stay healthy, and protect ourselves and those around us so that we can stop the spread of this virus.”

The number of positive cases in the 3-county jurisdiction as of 3 pm today includes 8 cases in St. Joseph County, 26 cases in Hillsdale County, 5 cases in Branch County and 17 at Lakeland Correctional Facility in Branch County. This is an increase of 50% in positive cases in the 3 counties from yesterday. “We need everyone to be vigilant with Stay Home, Stay Safe so that we can begin to see the number of cases slow,” stated Dr. Vogel, Medical Director.

Counts by County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Branch County</th>
<th>Hillsdale County</th>
<th>St. Joseph County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Positive Cases</td>
<td>5 + 17*</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Deaths</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Cases in Lakeland Correctional Facility

Total cases statewide, from data compiled by MDHHS at 10 a.m. this morning and released at 3 pm today, are 10,791 with 417 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 contact tracing and strictly adhere to patient privacy as required by HIPAA.

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).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch County</th>
<th>Hillsdale County</th>
<th>St. Joseph County</th>
<th>Sturgis Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>570 N. Marshall Rd.</td>
<td>20 Care Drive</td>
<td>1110 Hill St.</td>
<td>1555 E. Chicago Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coldwater, MI 49036</td>
<td>Hillsdale, MI 49242</td>
<td>Three Rivers, MI 49093</td>
<td>Sturgis, MI 49091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(517) 279-9561</td>
<td>(517) 437-7395</td>
<td>(269) 273-2161</td>
<td>(269) 273-2161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wednesday – Friday