FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Daily Update: April 18, 2020**
**Additional Death Reported Today**

**Coldwater, MI** – The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency (BHSJCHA) received notification today of another death attributed to COVID-19 in a resident from Hillsdale county. “Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the family in the loss of their loved one,” states Rebecca Burns, Health Officer. "As the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve in Michigan, we want to encourage everyone to keep up-to-date with new information at our website [www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org)."

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency (BHSJCHA) is reporting updated information on case counts in the tri-county area. The number of positive cases in the tri-county jurisdiction as of 3 pm today includes 25 cases in St. Joseph County, 88 cases in Hillsdale County, 36 cases in Branch County and 101 at Lakeland Correctional Facility in Branch County. As more testing becomes available and with the criteria for testing having been relaxed, there is an increased number of positive cases being identified. It is important for us to understand the true picture of the disease in our counties. This is still the time to be vigilant about maintaining social distancing practices.

### Counts by County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Branch County</th>
<th>Hillsdale County</th>
<th>St. Joseph County</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Positive Cases</td>
<td>36 + 101*</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Deaths</td>
<td>2 + 2*</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
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*Cases in Lakeland Correctional Facility
Total cases statewide today, *from data compiled by MDHHS at 10 a.m. this morning and released at 3 pm*, were 30,023 with 2,227 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.

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 and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BHSJCHA.

Branch County
570 N. Marshall Rd.
Coldwater, MI 49036
(517) 279-9561

Hillsdale County
20 Care Drive
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-7395

St. Joseph County
1110 Hill St.
Three Rivers, MI 49093
(269) 273-2161

Sturgis Office
1555 E. Chicago Rd.
Sturgis, MI 49091
(269) 273-2161

Wednesday – Friday

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