



Press Release

Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department

Web: health.hamiltontn.org

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

March 13, 2020

Health Department Confirms Case of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Hamilton County

HAMILTON COUNTY, TN – The Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department has received a positive Coronavirus (COVID-19) test result for a Hamilton County resident. The patient has been isolated at home and has already recovered from their illness. The source of the patient’s exposure to COVID-19 was a contact to a confirmed case in another state. While the risk to the general public remains low, the Health Department continues to conduct surveillance for other possible COVID-19 cases.

“We have been anticipating and preparing for COVID-19 to reach our community,” says Health Department Administrator Becky Barnes, “Our team is acting quickly to protect the public safety and prevent the spread of the disease.”

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Anyone experiencing these symptoms that have had recent travel to COVID-19 affected area, or have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, should contact their healthcare provider before presenting at a healthcare facility.

The foundation of a community-wide response is the everyday actions we can take to protect ourselves and prevent the spread of any respiratory disease, such as COVID-19 or influenza, which is still circulating in our community. These actions include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are unavailable, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home if you are sick to protect others.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve, elbow, or tissue. Discard the tissue immediately after use.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects.
- Community members 60+ years of age should limit exposure to large groups and ensure they have an adequate supply at home of medications and food.
- Stay informed using reliable information sources, such as the Tennessee Department of Health.

For the latest information about COVID-19, please visit the Health Department’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) webpage, or call the information hotline at (423) 209-8383.