



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An Increase in Positive COVID-19 Test Results in Northeast Colorado Demonstrates Importance of Staying Home

Sterling, Colo. – March 27, 2020: Northeast Colorado Health Department (NCHD) has been notified of another positive COVID-19 test result in a Logan County resident. The sample was collected at the Haxtun Hospital District and sent for testing. Case investigation is in process. In order to protect the privacy of the individuals, identifying information and medical records will not be released to the public. This brings the total number of cases for northeast Colorado to 12 (Logan County (5), Morgan County (4), Washington County (1) and Yuma County (2). There are no confirmed cases in Phillips and Sedgwick Counties.

NCHD wants to remind northeast Colorado residents of the importance of abiding by the new stay-at-home public health order that was issued this week!

The purpose for the public health and executive orders in the state of Colorado are intended to slow the spread of COVID-19. The goal is to save people from severe illness and death by minimizing person-to-person contact therefore limiting exposure to the virus. While the number of positive COVID-19 test results appear to be relatively low in northeast Colorado, it can be deceptive. Remember that we were notified of the first positive COVID-19 test result in the state of Colorado on March 5, 2020 and in 22 days

this number has grown to over 1,734 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases with 239 being hospitalized.

If community members ignore the stay-at-home order and continue normal movement, the virus continues to spread throughout the community, as well as between communities. In northeast Colorado, if a community with a population size of 1,734 people were to have 239 individuals contract COVID-19 and 31 were in need of hospitalization, local rural hospitals would quickly reach capacity. These measures are being implemented to flatten the curve.

“The sacrifices the residents of northeast Colorado are making now will make a difference in the weeks to come,” said Trish McClain, Public Health Director. “If the COVID-19 virus were to spread unchecked throughout our rural communities our healthcare resources would easily be overwhelmed.”

The actions taken here in the state of Colorado are based on global rates of hospitalization and death. If no measures are taken, like the stay-at-home order, Colorado hospitals would not have capacity to handle the number of sick people and many in the state would die. In fact, hospitals in some communities may reach their maximum capacity to care for patients with severe symptoms even with these measures.

Everyone plays a role in slowing the spread of COVID-19, influenza and other viruses.

Information about COVID-19 is constantly changing, and the public health response adjusts as we learn more about this virus. Reliable, up-to-date information is available at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/> or by calling CO HELP at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911 or email them at COHELP@RMPDC.org, for answers in English, Spanish (Español), Mandarin (普通话), and more.