



NEWS RELEASE

Michelle Pemberton
Planning & Grants Specialist
(970) 522-3741 x1239
michellep@nchd.org

March 18, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northeast Colorado Health Department Investigating a Positive COVID-19 Test Result

Sterling, Colo – March 18, 2020: Northeast Colorado Health Department (NCHD) has been notified of a positive COVID-19 test result in a Yuma County resident.

At this time the person is not hospitalized but in appropriate isolation and is recovering at home.

As with any communicable disease, this case investigation will take us some time. We will be contacting anyone who has had direct contact with the individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. In order to protect the privacy of the individual, identifying information and medical records will not be released to the public.

We understand that there may be some fear and confusion around COVID-19. However, we want to remind our communities that NCHD, Wray Hospital, Yuma Hospital, Yuma County Emergency Manager and other partnering agencies have been preparing for such an incident as this and that have identified resources ready to respond as the situation develops. We will continue to monitor each case, continue to assess suspected

cases, identify people who may have been exposed, and determine the need for isolation, quarantine, or other restrictions of movement.

“Northeast Colorado Health Department is prepared to respond to the situation. We have plans in place as well as experience from the H1N1 pandemic and the flood of 2013”, Director Trish McClain states. *“NCHD is working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and local healthcare and emergency response agencies, to ensure our response is proactive, strong, and collaborative.”*

Other affected areas have seen situations evolve rapidly once the virus is detected in a community. With that in mind, we advise residents to remain calm, stay informed, and continue to take simple preventive actions:

- Stay home if you're sick; keep your children home if they are sick.
- Practice good hygiene. Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water; in the absence of soap and water, use hand-sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Wray Community Hospital has some information lines available:

Nurse Triage Monday-Friday 9 AM- 5PM: 970-332-2310

Information (Message Only): 970-332-2305

Resource Connect: 970-332-2366 or 970-332-2371

Yuma District Hospital has an information line available:

Information: 970-848-5405

Other 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.

The Northeast Colorado Health Department and partnering health organizations will
provide regular updates.

#