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Howard County Has Sixth Positive COVID-19 Case

Burwell, NE –Loup Basin Public Health Department received confirmation of the sixth COVID-19 case in Howard County. This case is a woman in her 30s who was exposed to a person with COVID-19. The individual has been self-isolating at home since April 17, 2020. All close contacts have been identified and asked to self-quarantine at home. Patient information is considered protected health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and will not be provided to protect the patient's privacy.

Governor Ricketts' announced on Monday, that the State is giving greater authority to healthcare providers to conduct tests for COVID-19. Providers are being encouraged to move away from clinical diagnosis and confirm cases through laboratory testing.

Nebraska also issued a new Directed Health Measure on Monday to allow elective surgeries to resume on May 4th under certain guidelines. Hospitals can resume elective surgeries if they maintain 30% general bed availability, 30% ICU bed availability, 30% ventilator availability, and have a two-week supply of necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) in their specific facility.

For the latest information, visit the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx> or LBPHD (website: www.lbphd.org or on Facebook by searching Loup Basin Public Health Department).