



LoupBasin
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

934 I Street
PO Box 995
Burwell, NE 68823
(P) 308.346.5795
(F) 308.346.9106

Immediate Release – April 5, 2020

Contact Person:

Charles Cone, Director
ccone@lbphd.org

Amanda Jeffres, Assistant Director | Public Health Nurse
ajeffres@lbphd.org

Catie Larsen, Emergency Response Coordinator
clarsen@lbphd.org

**Loup Basin Public Health Department Reports Confirmed Case of COVID-19
Within Its Jurisdiction**

Burwell, NE – A patient within Loup Basin Public Health Departments (LBPHD) jurisdiction has tested **positive** for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The person is a male in his 80s who is a resident of Custer County. He is hospitalized and stable. LBPHD is working in conjunction with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to ensure proper patient care and infection control practices are being followed. 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.

Due to an increase in known community spread throughout the state, all 93 counties in Nebraska were placed under Directed Health Measures (DHM) on April 3, 2020, at 10:00 p.m. This remains in effect through May 11th unless renewed. LBPHD encourages everyone to limit non-essential travel outside of their community. Travel outside of your community should only occur for work and medical necessity.

Under the Directed Health Measures, individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms consistent with the virus (fever > 100.4°F, sudden onset cough and/or shortness of breath) or live with someone who has tested positive or has the above-mentioned symptoms should home quarantine for at least 14 days.

The DHM also imposes an enforceable 10-person limit on public gatherings. Restaurants and bars are required to close their dining area and move to take, delivery and/or curbside service only.

People can help protect themselves from COVID-19 and other respiratory infections by:

- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Avoid close contact with sick people and stay home if you are sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

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).