First COVID-19 death confirmed in Johnson County

Johnson County Public Health (JCPH) has been notified of the first death associated with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Johnson County. The individual was an older adult (61-80 years).

"We want to express our sincerest condolences to this individual's family and friends," said Dave Koch, Johnson County Public Health Director. "This is a somber reminder of the seriousness of this virus. COVID-19 can cause serious health complications and death, especially among older adults and people with chronic health conditions, that's why it's crucial we all work together to prevent the spread of the illness.

"We must continue to emphasize how important it is to protect those who are most vulnerable to this virus and urge our community to stay home unless activities are absolutely essential. In doing so, you're not only helping protect yourself, but also everyone's family, friends, neighbors and fellow community members."

Remember, the best way to protect yourself and prevent getting sick is to avoid being exposed in the first place. Staying home is the safest thing for everyone. Do not invite others – adults or children – into your home or yard. It is important to think about older adults, those with underlying health conditions and those health care workers who are caring for the sick. In order to protect them and ourselves from COVID-19, we must avoid gathering with anyone who does not live with us, no matter the number of people.

Thank you to all Johnson County residents who are doing your best to protect our most vulnerable friends, family and neighbors from this virus.

Information about COVID-19 in Johnson County is available at www.johnson-county.com/coronavirus.

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