

For Immediate Release:
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COVID-19 Updates for Woodbury County

Kevin Grieme, Director - Siouxland District Health Department

Siouxland District Health Department has been notified of the first death associated with novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Woodbury County. The individual was a male between 61-80 years of age that was not hospitalized.

"We wish to extend our deepest sympathies to this individual's family and friends," said Kevin Grieme, Siouxland District Health Director. "Siouxland District Health Department and all of our key partners throughout the county and state continue to work to limit the spread and impact of this virus in our communities. All of us must do our part to stop the spread of this novel coronavirus."

All residents can take action to help slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home as much as possible. Leave only for essential errands like groceries or getting medication. When you run these errands, send only one person from the household, if possible.
- Stay home when even mildly ill (the kind of illness that normally wouldn't prevent you from your everyday activities). If you need to see a health care provider, call first.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow/upper arm.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Practice social distancing and avoid handshakes. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and other people, and avoid gatherings of more than 10 people.
- Visit the grocery store or pharmacy during slow hours, where the number of people are reduced, and limit non-essential shopping.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

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About Siouxland District Health Department

Siouxland District Health Department, the public health agency for Woodbury County, is creating "A healthy community for all" by "leading a collaborative effort to build a healthier community through improved access to health services, education and disease prevention." They provide public health nursing, nutrition, laboratory, health planning and environmental health services. For more information on Siouxland District Health Department visit www.siouxlanddistricthealth.org.

Mari Kaptain-Dahlen, CEO - Siouxland Community Health Center

- The community drive-up testing site for COVID-19 is a partnership among health care providers in Sioux City to ensure that residents have access to safe, timely testing for COVID-19 with minimal contact; we are also conserving limited supplies of PPE for community providers.
- The testing site is open to residents from Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota.
- Testing is done for COVID-19 and for strep and influenza if ordered by the provider.
- An order is required from your provider in order to be tested; if you do not have a provider, please call the Siouxland Community Health Center at 252-2477 and request a provider visit for COVID-19 testing.
- Hours for testing are from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.
- Education is done with each individual that is tested regarding treatment of symptoms, the need to not return to work until test results are received and how to isolate at home.
- Since opening the site on March 27, volumes have doubled each week; we are currently completing over 200 tests per day.
- We anticipate that our volumes will increase and will expand our hours accordingly.

Tyler Brock, Deputy Director - Siouxland District Health Department

- There has been an increase in testing occurring in the county and in the area. As the testing increases, more confirmed cases are identified which require follow up, and may also call for more needed testing of contacts. This is a cycle that will continue and we anticipate seeing testing numbers, and confirmed cases, continue to increase.
- Siouxland District Health Department staff follow up with each identified case to check on their status, make sure that they understand the isolation guidance, and to identify household members and other potential close contacts that may need monitoring.
- The confirmed cases are monitored by public health staff until they meet the requirements to be released from monitoring and isolation. These criteria include
 - No fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) **AND**
 - Other symptoms have improved (for example, when cough or shortness of breath have improved) **AND**
 - At least seven days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Follow SDHD on Facebook and Twitter for updated information, or visit our website at <http://www.sioxlanddistricthealth.org/home.html>. For further information about novel coronavirus and statewide case counts, visit <https://idph.iowa.gov/emerging-health-issues/novel-coronavirus>. In addition, a public hotline has been established for Iowans with questions about COVID-19. The line is available 24/7 by calling 2-1-1.

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