



LaGrange County Health Department

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304 N. Townline Rd. Ste 1. LaGrange, IN 46761-1319

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2020

LAGRANGE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS 1st POSITIVE CASES OF COVID-19

LaGrange—The LaGrange County Health Department (LCHD) is announcing today the first positive cases (husband and wife) of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in LaGrange County. According to Dr. Pechin, Health Officer; the Health Department staff is working closely on these cases to continue the monitoring and following to ensure that all infection control protocols are being followed.

The two patients have been self-isolating at home for over a week with no additional close contact reported. They are husband and wife that traveled overseas and returned home early this month. No additional information about the patients will be released due to privacy laws.

Gov. Eric J. Holcomb issued a public health emergency declaration that calls on state agencies to continue their diligence and cooperation in responding to COVID-19 and ensures that Indiana can seek funding to control and stop the spread of coronavirus. The declaration is posted at www.in.gov/. The governor has also issued additional [steps](#) to protect the public from COVID-19. He ordered that Hoosiers remain in their homes except when they are at work or for permitted activities, such as taking care of others, obtaining necessary supplies, and for health and safety. The order is in effect from March 25 to April 7.

Human coronaviruses (**COVID-19**) most commonly spread from an infected person to others through:

- Respiratory droplets released into the air by coughing and sneezing;
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands;
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands; and
- Rarely, fecal contamination.

The best way to protect yourself from any respiratory illness, including the flu and **COVID-19**, is to:

- Wash your 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 (within 6 feet) with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. A facemask should be used by people who have COVID-19 and are showing symptoms to protect others from the risk of infection. The LaGrange County Health Department (www.lagrangecountyhealth.com) will provide updates as new information becomes available. Visit <https://coronavirus.IN.gov> for the most up-to-date information.