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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 10, 2020

Contact Lindsey Salvatelli
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MCDH announces first COVID-19 case

A MALE IN HIS LATE TEENS TESTED POSITIVE AT A IDPH LABORATORY

MCHENRY COUNTY – A McHenry County resident has tested positive at the IDPH laboratory for coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The case is a McHenry County teen without a history of travel to an affected area and no connection to a known case of COVID-19.

The individual is currently in isolation and doing well. MCDH is identifying and investigating all who've been in contact with the individual.

“We don't have much information to share at this time, but we want the public to know that we are taking all necessary precautions with this case,” said MCDH Public Health Administrator Melissa Adamson. “We encourage all residents to continue using preventative measures to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19, and to begin planning for events that could disrupt their lives, such as school closures or if they become ill.”

MCDH will continue to partner with IDPH and regional health departments to monitor all possible new cases as this situation continues to evolve. However, residents should continue to use precautions in their daily routine to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and begin developing a plan in the event that they become ill.

Quick tips for:

- **Everyone:** Use the same daily health precautions you would for flu including washing your hands frequently, for a minimum of 20 seconds, using soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering your cough and sneeze, and staying home when sick.
- **Health care:** Screen patients and visitors for symptoms of respiratory illness such as fever, cough, and difficulty breathing; wear proper personal protective gear such as gowns and masks when needed, and have employees stay home when sick.
- **Day cares, schools, universities:** Review emergency plans, absenteeism policies, and cleaning procedures; identify strategies for alternative learning mechanisms such as on-line programs; and consider postponing or cancelling student exchange programs.

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- **Businesses:** Review emergency and continuity of operation plans, revisit sick leave policies, and assess schedule flexibility.
- **Community and faith organizations:** Review emergency plans and communicate with community members if events and services are changed, postponed, or cancelled.

Get the latest guidance for school, employers and community preparedness by visiting [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](https://www.mcdh.info/preventing-covid-19-spread-in-communities) or by visiting mcdh.info. For general questions about COVID-19, call the IDPH hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov.

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