

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

It has been reported that Kane County has its first known case of COVID-19 (the Coronavirus). The patient is a woman in her 60s and has had no known contact with an infected individual. Community spread of the virus is possible, and we all need to take basic protective measures to minimize the spread. Most people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions. You can take care of your health and protect others by following these basic steps:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. (Maintain at least a 3 foot distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing and sneezing.)
- 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 regularly.

There are no plans to cancel school or school events at this time. We continue to work closely with our local health agencies and monitor our attendance and sickness patterns daily, including weekly reporting to the Kane County Health Department on the number of students presenting flu-like symptoms. We will continue to follow the guidance of our local health agencies and are working on plans if the recommendation is made to close schools.

If you suspect you may have the Coronavirus, health care professionals are requesting that you call your physician before going to a medical facility. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. The following link contains valuable information on the steps you should take to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html>.

Central District 301 provides informative links on our news section of the website (<https://central301.net/blog/2020/01/29/coronavirus-information/>). This page includes more information about the Coronavirus and guidance for K-12 schools from the Illinois Department of Public Health. We will continue to update this information as it is received.