

#### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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Jackie Och

**Branch Office** 

Todd County Health & Human Services

320-732-4500

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

4/1/2020

#### Caring for Yourself or Others at Home

As of April 1, 2020, Todd County has no lab confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19). Although due to a shortage of COVID-19 testing materials, local transmission of the virus may be currently occurring in Todd County. Most people who get sick with COVID-19 will have only mild illness and should recover at home. Care at home can help stop the spread of COVID-19 and help protect people who are at risk for getting seriously ill from COVID-19.

# If you are caring for yourself or someone at home:

- Monitor for emergency signs- If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately. Emergency warning signs include: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or bluish lips or face.
- <u>Prevent the spread of germs-</u> COVID-19 spreads between people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
  - o Have the person stay in one room, away from other people, including yourself, as much as possible.
    - Avoid sharing personal household items, like dishes, towels, and bedding
    - If facemasks are available, have them wear a facemask when they are around people, including you.
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after interacting with the sick person.
  - o Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
  - Every day, clean all surfaces that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs
  - Wash laundry thoroughly. If laundry is soiled, wear disposable gloves and keep the soiled items away from your body while laundering. Wash your hands immediately after removing gloves.
  - Avoid having any unnecessary visitors.
- Treat symptoms- For most people, symptoms last a few days and get better after a week.
  - Make sure the sick person drinks a lot of fluids to stay hydrated and rests at home.
  - Over-the-counter medicines may help with symptoms.
- <u>Carefully consider when to end home isolation (staying at home)</u>- People can stop home isolation under the following conditions:
  - They have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use medicine that reduces fevers)

## AND

- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when their cough or shortness of breath have improved)
  AND
- At least 7 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared

<sup>&</sup>quot;People helping people through life's challenges by maintaining integrity, providing education and sharing skills to empower individuals to their highest possible level of wellness."

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For more information go to CDC- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html

Todd County has set up a website with information for the public at: https://www.co.todd.mn.us/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/ As this is a rapidly changing situation please continue to check back to this website for updates.

The Minnesota Department of Health has set up the following hotlines to answer questions:

## Community mitigation (schools, child care, business) questions:

651-297-1304 or 1-800-657-3504 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

# **Health questions:**

651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.