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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN BAY COUNTY PROVIDES COVID-19 UPDATE, ANNOUNCES FIRST COVID-19 DEATH AND FOUR NEW COVID-19 CASES

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Panama City, Fla.— On April 1, a 93-year-old Bay County man who was tested for COVID-19 passed away. We received confirmation that he was positive for COVID-19 today.

This is the first person to die in Bay County diagnosed with COVID-19.

We are expressing our condolences to his family and the Florida Department of Health in Bay County will continue to work with our community partners to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Bay County also received confirmation of four additional cases of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus. The persons ill with the virus include a 61-year-old female, a 42-year-old male, a 47-year-old male, and a 47-year-old female. These cases are not travel related. This brings Bay County's total COVID-19 cases to 23, including 22 residents with one death and one non-resident.

The Florida Department of Health in Bay County (DOH-Bay) is now conducting its contact investigations and working on identifying and notifying individuals who will need to self-monitor for symptoms for a 14-day period. Contact investigations are a critical way for staff epidemiologists to track and prevent the spread of disease.

A total of 264 tests have been processed for Bay County from private and public labs with 241 negative results. There have been a total of four hospitalizations. The residences of the 22 positive Bay County cases include; 12 in Panama City, four in Panama City Beach, one in Southport, three in Lynn Haven, one in Youngstown, and one in Tyndall Air Force Base. The non-resident case is from Texas.

COVID-19 symptoms and treatment

The symptoms of COVID-19 can mirror illnesses such as influenza. Patients with COVID-19 typically display symptoms such as fever (100.4°F or higher), cough, and/or shortness of breath within 2 to 14 days of exposure to the virus. Approximately 80% of those affected with COVID-19 report mild to moderate illness and experience a complete recovery. Some experience more severe illness. People who are more vulnerable to the illness include individuals who are over age 65 with underlying health conditions, immunocompromised, ill or have underlying chronic health conditions, such as heart disease or diabetes.

Many cases of COVID-19 can be managed at home by treating symptoms, and this is encouraged. However, if you develop worsening symptoms, such as shortness of breath, chest pain, or inability to drink fluids, contact 911 and advise them of your symptoms as you may need treatment at a hospital.

COVID-19 overview, symptoms, and general prevention

COVID-19 is a new type of coronavirus; coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals. Other coronaviruses include the common cold and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). COVID-19 is believed to have emerged from an animal source and is now capable of spreading from person-to-person. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

For more Information on COVID-19

To find the most up-to-date information and guidance on COVID-19, please visit the Department of Health's dedicated COVID-19 website. For information and advisories from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), please visit the CDC COVID-19 website. For more information about current travel advisories issued by the U.S. Department of State, please visit the travel advisory website.

For any other questions related to COVID-19 in Florida, please contact the Department's dedicated COVID-19 Call Center by calling (866) 779-6121. The Call Center is available 24 hours per day. Inquiries may also be emailed to COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

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The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @HealthyFla. For more information about the Florida Department of Health, please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov .