



NEWS RELEASE

Michelle Pemberton
Public Information Officer
(970) 522-3741 x1239
michellep@nchd.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northeast Colorado Health Department Investigating a Positive COVID-19 Test Result in Phillips County

Sterling, Colo – March 30, 2020: Northeast Colorado Health Department (NCHD) has been notified of the first positive COVID-19 test result in a Phillips County resident. Melissa Memorial Hospital collected the sample and sent it for testing.

“This individual is currently not hospitalized, but is in appropriate isolation,” said Trish McClain, Director of NCHD. “It is important that everyone follows the new public health order to stay home. It is up to each of us to protect our community members who are at high risk and not give this virus a chance to spread.”

This case investigation is in process and we will be contacting anyone that has had direct contact with the individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. In order to protect the privacy of the individual, identifying information and medical records will not be released to the public.

We have a dedicated team doing everything possible to protect the health of our communities in Phillips County. We understand that there may be some fear and confusion around COVID-19. However, we want to remind our communities that NCHD, Melissa Memorial Hospital, Haxtun Hospital District, Phillips County Office of Emergency Management and other partnering agencies have been preparing for such an incident as

this. Phillips County has a pandemic response plan already in motion with tools and protocols in place to monitor patients, visitors, travelers and other individuals who may have been exposed. We have the infection control expertise needed and have identified resources ready to respond as the situation develops.

As the number of positive cases increases in northeast Colorado, contact investigations NCHD is performing may begin to reveal common community exposures. It is important that if you have been advised by your doctor to self-isolate or self-quarantine that you follow their directions. Everyone can help slow the spread of COVID-19 by abiding by the stay-at-home public health order issued last week.

Information about COVID-19 is constantly changing, and the public health response adjusts as we learn more about this virus. Reliable, up-to-date information is available at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/> or by calling CO HELP at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911 or email them at COHELP@RMPDC.org, for answers in English, Spanish (Español), Mandarin (普通话), and more.

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