



**SANILAC COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
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**Protecting and promoting health for Sanilac County citizens since 1937**

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FROM HEALTH OFFICER, BRYANT WILKE**

The Sanilac County Health Department is reporting the first local death attributed to COVID-19. The individual, the first case that we had reported last week, was a male, over age 60, a resident of the Crosswell-Lexington area who had been hospitalized at Port Huron McLaren Hospital since the onset of symptoms occurred.

“Our condolences go out to the family who have lost their loved one”, said Bryant Wilke, Health Officer for the Sanilac County Health Department. “Our Community feels your loss. There are no words that can ease the pain or lessen this family’s grief. His death is an urgent reminder to all of us to practice social distancing, close non-essential businesses and limit access to essential businesses. We all must come together as a community to act now in protecting everyone’s health!”

Sanilac County currently has seven (7) confirmed COVID-19 cases. Please be assured that the Health Department is conducting contact tracing for all positive cases in our county and are advising contacts to monitor for symptoms and self-quarantine for 14 days from their last potential exposure.

If you are feeling symptoms (fever, dry cough & shortness of breath, muscle aches and pains, even vomiting and headache with any of these symptoms) stay at home. Call your medical provider should you feel your symptoms are not improving, or are life threatening.

It is also very important to separate yourself from all other household members and stay in home isolation until all of these three things have happened:

- \* At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
- \* Have been fever-free for 72 hours (3 days) without use of fever reducing medications.
- \* Other symptoms have improved, such as cough or shortness of breath.

Health protection mitigation and prevention measures are in place, however, the only tool we have to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus is in our own daily decisions. It is up to all of us to protect each other by social distancing. We will just prolong this Pandemic if we do not act responsibly. The following recommendations are essential in beating this deadly virus:

- **Stay at home** - Do not leave home except for essential tasks such as getting groceries or seeking medical care.
- **If you are out, stay at least 6 feet away from others** and avoid *any* gatherings.

- **Wash your hands** often and aggressively for 20 seconds, especially after being away from home.
- **Disinfect commonly touched surfaces.**
- **Do not touch your face or mouth**, especially when in public.
- **Check on others** - Call your loved ones and neighbors who are most at risk and see how they are doing. If they require an essential errand, see how you can help.
- **Essential Businesses** - consider limiting access, protect workers and provide measures to lessen contact with customers and/or coworkers. Consider closing, if you are truly not filling an essential need during this State of Emergency.
- **Non-Essential Businesses** – Close.

Everyone should be following the above guidance. Our area is experiencing community spread and there is evidence of asymptomatic spread locally. Everyone needs to take precautions, practice prevention techniques, and assume potential exposure when in all public locations. We all need to do our part to save lives!

For current national, state and local information, check reputable online sources such as [www.cdc.gov/COVID-19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19), [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus), or [www.sanilachealth.com](http://www.sanilachealth.com).

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