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May 1, 2020  
3:00pm

**Franklin County COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center**

**Franklin County Reports First Community (non-facility-based)  
COVID-19 Related Death.**

**From:**

Scott S. LaVigne, MSW, MBA  
Franklin County Health Director  
Public Information Officer, Franklin County COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

**Communication:**

Sadly, **Franklin County** has now recorded its first community COVID-19 related death. As of the date and time of this press release, this death is not associated with any congregate care outbreak.

This brings Franklin County's current total number of COVID-19 related fatalities to nineteen (19), and this community loss is reflected in the NCDHHS numbers that were updated on 5/1/2020, which includes the report of 105 total lab-confirmed coronavirus cases in Franklin County.

**NEW NCDHHS COVID-19 Data Site Feature:** Please note that the NCDHHS COVID-19 website now contains maps which show "confirmed-cases by zip codes." This is a new feature, and only includes results for Zip Codes where the population exceeds 500 people. Here is the link for this new feature:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/covid19/covid-19-nc-case-count#zip-code-map>

Look for more updates from the Franklin COVID-19 EOC as more information becomes available.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. LaVigne', is written over a horizontal line.

Scott S. LaVigne, MSW, MBA  
Franklin County Health Director  
Franklin County COVID-19 EOC – Public Information Officer

A handwritten date '5/1/2020' in blue ink is written over a horizontal line.

Date

### Steps We All Need to Take:

#### Guidance for Those with Fever & Upper Respiratory Symptoms:

If you feel illness coming on, isolate yourself and call your doctor if your symptoms worsen. Everyone with fever and respiratory symptoms should isolate themselves from everyone until BOTH conditions below are met:

- At least 7 days since symptom onset.
- AND**
- Over 72 hours after symptom resolution (i.e. absence of fever without the use of fever-reducing medication and improvement of respiratory symptoms).

#### Close Contacts:

- Those with close contact to a person with fever or respiratory illness are encouraged to stay home to the extent possible, and to monitor themselves for symptoms.

#### Recommendations:

What is important is that everyone do their part to keep us all safe:

- avoid touching your face;
- Wash your hands frequently & thoroughly using warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds (sing “Happy Birthday” twice, or use your own tune)
- use hand sanitizers frequently;
- cough/sneeze into your arm, or if you use a tissue, immediately throw it out and wash your hands.
- Isolate yourself from others if you’re sick;
- stay home from work/school or going out anywhere if you feel the slightest bit sick.
- Everyone needs to avoid vulnerable populations, including: those over 65; those with underlying health conditions and/or weakened immune systems; and those who are pregnant.
- Do not group together, and certainly not in groups any larger than 10, and keep six (6) feet apart from anyone you don’t live with.
- If you have to go out, please maintain at least 6 feet of space between you and others.
- If you have to go out, feel free to use a cloth covering to protect others from **you**, if you happen to have the virus but just aren’t showing symptoms yet;
- Don’t count on gloves or a cloth mask alone to keep you safe, wash your hands, don’t touch your face, and use hand sanitizer if you have it.
- If you are lucky enough to have Personal Protective Equipment (gloves, masks etc.) use it correctly (wearing a pair of gloves everywhere you go means you now have collected everything you’ve been in contact with, on those gloves.)
- Live by the motto **“If they don’t live with you in your house, then they can’t come-in, and if you meet them in public, keep them at least 6 feet away.”**