PRESS RELEASE
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Melissa Brummell, RN, Director of Public Health
Department of Public Health
7 Placer Loop, Virginia City, MT
Office: 406.843.4295

Bonnie O'Neill
Public Information Officer
PO Box 278
Virginia City, MT 59755
406-843-4277

Madison County First Positive
COVID-19 Case

On March 20, 2020, the Madison County Public Health Department confirmed the first case of COVID-19 in Madison County on Friday morning. A total of 16 cases have been confirmed in the State of Montana as of today.

Melissa Brummell, RN, Public Health Director with Madison County Public Health advises the individual who tested positive for the coronavirus in Madison County is a woman in her 50s who has had limited contact with the public, and confirmed positive on Friday. She has been cooperative, according to Brummell, and said she had been home and has not had contact with "sensitive places" such as long-term care facilities, schools or public events since becoming ill.

Brummell said the individual's diligence to stay home while symptomatic prevented exposure to the general public. Health department staff will continue working with the individual and all those involved to maintain public health and safety.

Extra pre-cautious have been taken at the healthcare facility in which she was treated to prevent the spread of the virus. Even with high-profile cases such as the coronavirus, the county uses existing, effective protocols to mitigate communicable diseases, Brummell said.

At this time, health officials are not disclosing the individual's name, or where in Madison County she lives, according to Brummell. They have no further information on the other confirmed cases in the State of Montana.

Cases of COVID-19 have ranged from people with little to no symptoms to severe illness and death. The CDC expects cases to continue to be confirmed, and would like families and individuals to prepare to take action to help prevent the spread of the virus.

The website Ready.gov provides family emergency plans and checklists to help prepare for disease outbreaks and other situations. The best way to stop the spread of infectious viruses is by washing your hands, covering coughs and sneezes, eating healthy, cleaning surfaces and staying home if you are sick.

As this situation evolves, the public can find accurate and timely information on COVID-19 through the CDC's website, www.cdc.gov/COVID19, and social media channels.