**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
April 4, 2020

**FIRST POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE REPORTED IN CALHOUN COUNTY**

**Calhoun County, IL** - The Calhoun County Health Department has been notified of its first positive case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This case is not a travel-related case.

The individual is a resident of Calhoun County and is in their 20’s. The patient will be self-quarantined at home. We are working closely with our health care partners and the state to monitor the patient and identify any close contacts. Any close contacts will be contacted individually.

We understand that this is a worrying time for members of our community. As there are more positive cases found in Illinois and the United States, the best thing that ALL residents can do is to practice social distancing, proper handwashing, and staying home when you are sick. Social distancing is the practice of reducing close contact between people to slow the spread of infections or diseases. Social distancing is critical at this time to limit the spread of COVID-19.

If you have symptoms of a respiratory illness such as fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should call your healthcare provider. Other minor symptoms, that have been reported, include loss of sense of smell and taste. If your symptoms are severe enough to go to the emergency room, call ahead.

Also, if you are sick please follow these steps from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to protect yourself and the community:

* Stay home, except to get medical care.
* Avoid contact with others in your home.
* Stay in touch with your doctor.
	+ Call ahead before you get medical care.
	+ Be sure to get medical care if you feel worse, or you think it is an emergency.
		- If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, notify the operator that you have or think you might have, COVID-19. If possible, put on a facemask before medical help arrives.
* Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
* Clean your hands often.
	+ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
	+ If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
* Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
* Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects often.

This is a quickly-changing situation. For the latest local COVID-19 information, please visit the Calhoun County Health Department’s web page: [www.calhouncountyhealth.net/covid19](http://www.calhouncountyhealth.net/covid19). For general questions about COVID-19, please call the Illinois Department of Public Health’s COVID-19 hotline at (800) 889-3931.