



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2020

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**Kent County Health Department Statement on
2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Quarantines**

GRAND RAPIDS – The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) is monitoring three individuals who are home quarantined to ensure that they are free from the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). These individuals **DO NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS** of the virus and **pose no public health threat**. There are no confirmed cases of the 2019-nCoV in Kent County or in the State of Michigan at the current time.

Because these three individuals recently returned from China, they meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) criteria that currently recommends being quarantined for 14 days after returning to the United States from mainland China. Working in cooperation with these agencies, KCHD is monitoring these individuals through daily contact to confirm that they remain free of symptoms.

KCHD is also working with local health care providers to establish proper preparation should testing or treatment for the 2019-nCoV become necessary.

KCHD has established a website, <https://www.accesskent.com/Health/coronavirus.htm>, where information about the 2019-nCoV can be found.

It is also important to note that the relative risk of contracting 2019-nCoV is small in comparison to the flu. The CDC says that the flu has killed 12,000 people in the U.S. this flu season. There is still time to get your flu shot. Proper handwashing is the most effective way you can help control the spread of all illnesses. Sneeze and cough into your elbow and if you are sick stay home.

For more information about the flu, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>.

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.