



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: Media Partners
DATE: April 30, 2020
REGARDING: First Positive COVID-19 Case – Baraga County
CONTACT: Kate Beer, Health Officer, (906) 487-5545

Western Upper Peninsula Health Department Reports First Positive COVID-19 Case in Baraga County

Baraga County -- The Western Upper Peninsula Health Department (WUPHD) received notification today of the first COVID-19 positive case in Baraga County. The case is a male with a recent history of travel. The Health Department continues to investigate to determine if the case is travel related and if additional people have been in close contact with the individual.

“We will be closely monitoring any individuals who may have had direct, personal contact with the identified case, such as household contacts,” said Kate Beer, Health Officer at WUPHD. “Additional information will be provided if our investigation reveals any possible lower-risk community exposures. Please remember this is a time for us to support each other and work together to reduce any possible spread of illness in our community.”

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

Prevention steps include:

- Clean your hands often. Scrub with soap for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if you cannot wash.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick. Call ahead before going to your healthcare provider. Learn what to do if you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

- Wear a mask while in spaces occupied by the public.

WUPHD is working to coordinate their response with community partners. A local COVID-19 informational call line is available Monday through Friday, from 8 AM EST to 4 PM EST at (906) 487-5545. Updates are also available at www.wuphd.org.

There is a State informational hotline available from 8 AM EST to 5 PM EST seven days per week. That number is 1-888-535-6136. Additional information on COVID-19 can be found on the MDHHS website (www.michigan.gov/coronavirus), or the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>).

#