FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 2020

FIRST POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE REPORTED IN LINCOLN COUNTY, MO

Lincoln County, MO- The Lincoln County Health Department has been notified of its first positive case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This case is a travel-related case.

The individual is a resident of Lincoln County and is in their 40’s. 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 Missouri 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. 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 Lincoln County Health Department’s web page: lchdmo.org/covid19. For general questions about COVID-19, please call the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services COVID-19 hotline at (877) 435-8411.

###