Mission:
To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

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NEW COVID-19 CASE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

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Franklin County, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in Franklin County (FDOH-Franklin) has received notification of a new positive case of COVID-19 in Franklin County. Franklin County now has a total of **five** COVID-19 cases (with 2 no longer required to isolate). The dashboard says six, but after investigating, the additional case is not a Franklin County resident and has not been in Franklin County. We are working with the state to correct the dashboard.

The new case is a 65-year-old male who is a Franklin County resident with close contact to a previously confirmed positive case inside the county.

The health department is working closely with the patients, close contacts and healthcare providers to ensure proper precautions are being taken to prevent the spread of the virus.

Public health efforts at this time are focused concurrently on containing the spread of this virus and mitigating the impact of this virus. A technique called contact tracing is frequently used during such efforts. Contact tracing tracks and prevents the spread of disease. Infectious disease specialists work to find everyone who has been in contact with the positive case. Persons identified to be at-risk through the contact tracing process are interviewed, evaluated, and educated on their risk factors and what to do. For more information, please review this Contact Tracing Can Contain COVID-19 flyer.

DOH-Franklin encourages our residents and visitors to continue to take the preventive steps to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19. Everyone can do their part to help. Visitors to Franklin and Gulf are encouraged to get tested for COVID19 prior to coming.

"We will continue providing COVID19 testing for Franklin and Gulf residents as well as individuals from other counties and/or states," said Sarah Hinds. "That being said, if you suspect you might have COVID19, please do not travel here. Please get a COVID19 test (nasal swab for active infection) in your community and know your results before you arrive. Stay home when you are sick and follow CDC guidelines. Visitors are also responsible for helping to keep our communities safe and healthy."

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www.FloridaHealth.gov
TWITTER:HealthyFLA
FACEBOOK:FLDepartmentofHealth
YOUTUBE: fldoh
FLICKR: HealthyFla
PINTEREST: HealthyFla

WHAT IF I HAVE BEEN A CONTACT TO A POSITIVE CASE?
If you feel you've been a close contact to a positive case and would like to be tested, you can contact the local health department or your medical provider for testing. The recommendation is to quarantine for 14 days in your home, except to seek medical care. If symptoms develop during the 14-day period, contact your medical provider for follow up.

WHEN CAN YOU BE AROUND OTHERS AFTER YOU HAD OR LIKELY HAD COVID19?
When you can be around others (end home isolation) depends on different factors for different situations. Find CDC's recommendations for your situation using this link: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html

HOW DO I CLEAN AND DISINFECTANT SAFELY AT HOME AND THE WORKPLACE?
To reduce improper use and prevent unnecessary chemical exposures, users should always read and follow directions on the label, don't mix chemicals, wear protective gear, use in a well-ventilated area and store chemicals out of the reach of children. For more information you can contact the Poison Control hotline at 1-800-222-1222. Follow CDC cleaning guidance using this link: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect/index.html

About COVID-19

COVID-19 transmission is more commonly spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth, including when an individual coughs or sneezes. This is why social distancing and keeping at least 6 feet between you and other people is still so important. A person can get COVID-19 by touching droplets that can land on objects and surfaces and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth, although, this is a less common mode of transmission. The vast majority of cases have come from close, sustained contact with an individual with COVID-19.

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. Symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as many as 14 days following exposure. Most people recover from the COVID-19 without needing special treatment. The elderly and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems and diabetes, and those with compromised immune systems are more likely to develop serious illness. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. As a reminder, the Department always recommends everyday preventive actions to help impede the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

• Avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
• Staying home when you are sick and avoiding contact with persons in poor health;
• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth;
• Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then disposing of the tissue;
• Wear cloth masks in public situations difficult to maintain social distancing;
• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing;

     - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty; and
• Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Please visit the Department's dedicated COVID-19 webpage at www.FloridaHealth.gov/COVID-19. The webpage remains the best and most up-to-date resource for information and guidance regarding COVID-19 in Florida.

Franklin and Gulf County Health Department Locations are OPEN and will remain open as staff continue to work on the COVID-19 response efforts.
Florida Department of Health in Franklin County: 850-653-2111
Florida Department of Health in Gulf County: 850-227-1276

For any other questions related to COVID-19 in Florida, please contact the Department's dedicated COVID-19 Call Center by calling **(866) 779-6121. The Call Center is available 24 hours per day**. Inquiries may also be emailed to **COVID-19@flhealth.gov.**

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About the Florida Department of Health
The Florida Department of Health, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at @HealthyFranklin and on Facebook. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.