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

Florida HEALTH

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

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

Florida HEALTH
Franklin County

July 22, 2020

COVID-19 RELATED DEATH IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

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Franklin County, Fla. – Today, the Florida Department of Health in Franklin/Gulf reports the death of a patient who previously tested positive for COVID-19. This event marks the first death of a Franklin County resident with a positive test. The patient was an 82-year-old male. The state's medical examiners are tasked with investigating and certifying COVID-19 deaths in the Florida, but we wanted to inform our rural county about this situation and would like to express our deepest sympathies to the family and loved ones of our resident.

The health of our residents remains our priority. In times of tragedy, our communities have always been a strong source of support for one another. We need our communities to help do everything they can to slow the spread of the virus.

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:

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FACEBOOK:FLDepartmentofHealth
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FLICKR: HealthyFla
PINTEREST: HealthyFla

- 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 local COVID-19 updates straight to your phone: text "FranklinCV19" to 888777 in Franklin County -or- "GULFCOVID" to 888777 in Gulf County.

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.