Health Department Activates Hotline for COVID-19

March 5, 2020, Jackson, Wyo. – Members of the public with questions or concerns about the novel coronavirus disease known as COVID-19 can now call a hotline to get up-to-date information on the disease in Teton County.

The Teton County Health Department activated the hotline Thursday, March 5, 2020. The automated system is operational 24-hours a day and will provide callers with local updates, steps to prevent the spread of the disease, and what to do if individuals have been exposed or are experiencing symptoms.

The public can reach the hotline by dialing 1-307-732-8628 and can visit the Teton County Health Department web page for additional information at https://tetoncountywy.gov/2061/Coronavirus-Disease-COVID-19.

"Everyone can do their part to help plan, prepare, and respond to this emerging public health threat. Making sure you have the most accurate information is the first step you can take," said Jodie Pond, Director of Teton County Health Department.

Pond is reminding residents to obtain information on COVID-19 from trusted and reliable sources such as the county and state health departments, St. John's Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in order to prevent the spread of misinformation and rumors.

Teton County health officials and St. John's Health are actively monitoring the disease that emerged in China in early December 2019. Currently, there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in Wyoming or Teton County, and the risk to county residents remains low.

Individuals can take the following steps to help prevent the spread of the disease:

- 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 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

- Frequently clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs. A list of COVID19-fighting products can be found here: https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick, limit contact with others as much as possible.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- Prepare your household with an emergency plan and supplies. Guidance can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/get-your-household-ready-for-COVID-19.html
- To prevent influenza and possible unnecessary evaluation for COVID-19, all persons aged six months or older should receive an annual influenza vaccine if they have not done so already.

With spring break just a few weeks away, residents should pay close attention to special travel recommendations from CDC, which can be found at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html.

Symptoms of the virus, which targets the respiratory system, include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Anyone who is concerned they may have COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider by phone prior to seeking care. The healthcare provider will be able to direct the person to the best level of care.

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