



Press Release

Date: April 2, 2020
Contact: Kari Etrheim, Olmsted County Public Health Communications
covidpio@co.olmsted.mn.us

Health officials confirm first death of COVID-19 in Olmsted County

ROCHESTER, Minn. – Olmsted County Public Health Services has received confirmation from the Minnesota Department of Health of a death due to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, in an Olmsted County resident. The individual was a resident in their 90s who lived in a congregate care setting within Olmsted County.

“Although this is not unexpected, it is still sad news for our community. Our hearts go out to all the loved ones and care givers affected by this tragic death, and to all those suffering from this virus,” said Graham Briggs, Director of Olmsted County Public Health Services. “We are committed to fighting the spread of COVID-19 in Minnesota and across the country. Together we will get through this historic health challenge.”

“We must do everything we can to prevent the spread of this deadly virus. Not only to protect ourselves, but to protect those around us,” noted Olmsted County Board of Commissioner’s chair Matt Flynn.

As of today, Olmsted County has 66 COVID-19 cases, ranging in age from 6 to 90 years. While the virus does not discriminate, individuals over the age of 65 are at higher risk of severe illness and negative consequences. Twelve of Minnesota’s 18 fatalities have occurred among residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

This development serves as a sad reminder: It is critical that individuals and organizations take action to slow the spread of the virus – adhere to the stay at home order and follow all applicable guidance and recommendations from national, state and local health officials.

Olmsted County Public Health continues to work closely with the Minnesota Department of Health, and our public and private partners to understand the challenges and find ways to address to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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About Olmsted County

Olmsted County is the eighth largest county in the state of Minnesota with eight cities (Rochester being the largest), 18 townships and approximately 150,000 residents (2016 census data). The county is governed by seven individuals elected to serve on the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners, and county services are supported by nearly 1,300 Olmsted County government employees working to fulfill the county’s vision of being a dynamic, world-class county delivering excellence every day. For more information, visit www.olmstedcounty.com.