NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Department
County of Warren
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 Continues to Spread in New Jersey
First Positive Case Identified in Warren County

(OXFORD, NJ March 17, 2020) – The first positive case of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) has been identified in Warren County. The 56-year-old male, from Mansfield Township, was treated at Hackettstown Medical Center. Testing protocols at this time require state laboratory positive cases to be confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"While this is understandably concerning to residents, we will continue to work with county and local officials to help limit the spread of COVID-19 in our communities," said Pete Summers, Health Officer of the Warren County Health Department.

Warren County Health Department is encouraging the public to contact the NJDOH Hotline at 1-800-222-1222 if they have general questions about COVID-19. Accurate and updated information can be found on the CDC's Coronavirus website at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/ or from NJDOH at https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml.

People at higher risk of getting sick from COVID-19 include adults over 60 years old, and people who have serious medical conditions including heart or lung disease, diabetes, cancer, or who may be immunocompromised. In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order issued yesterday (March 16, 2020), Warren County is advising social distancing and urges individuals to take the following precautions:

- Stay home as much as possible, avoid unnecessary events and gatherings.
- Stock up on food and medication.
  - Be sure to have at least two weeks of household items and groceries on hand so that you will be prepared to stay home for an extended period of time.
- Take everyday precautions.
  - Stay home when you are sick. Avoid close contact with those who are sick.

- o Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- o Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or into your sleeve.
- o Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- o Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Patients with COVID-19 have reported mild to severe symptoms, which may occur 2-14 days after being exposed. The symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If you are sick, or think you have been exposed to COVID-19, call your doctor before visiting so that they can protect themselves and other patients from the spread of disease. Please be sure to mention any recent travel history.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Warren County Health Department at 908-475-7960.

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