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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Health Department Reports First COVID-19 Death in Cass County

PAPILLION: A woman in her 60s who also suffered from serious underlying health conditions has become the first COVID-19 death in Cass County, according to the Sarpy/Cass Health Department. It is currently unknown how she contracted the virus.

"We offer our deepest, heartfelt condolences to the family of this individual," said Sarah Schram, Health Director. "Our entire team has been working diligently to protect the health and safety of our community. We are doing everything we can to prevent more loss of lives from this pandemic."

As COVID-19 continues to spread in our community, the Health Department urges residents to do all that we can to keep each other safe and healthy. "Each of us must do our part to slow down the transmission of this virus by adhering to social distancing and other health advisories," Schram said.

Certain people are at higher risk of getting very ill from COVID-19, including older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes and lung disease.

People in these higher-risk groups should:

- Stay home as much as possible.
- When you go out in public, maintain a six foot distance between yourself and others and wear a cloth face mask.
- Shop alone and only shop one time per week.
- Help seniors stay healthy at home by shopping for them.
- Stay away from others who are sick.
- Wash your hands often.

As of today, more than 3,900 residents of Sarpy and Cass County have been tested for COVID-19. Of those, 294 residents in Sarpy County and 16 in Cass County have tested positive for the virus.

Public health partners across the state continue to take action to protect the health of Nebraskans. The Sarpy/Cass Health Department will continue to update our community as new information becomes available.

For more information about COVID-19 please visit www.sarpycasshealthdepartment.org or <http://dhhs.ne.gov/coronavirus> or call 211.

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