

NEWS
Immediate Release
March 12, 2020

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North Dakota's First Case of Novel Coronavirus Identified in Ward County

Minot, N.D. - North Dakota's first presumptive case of the novel coronavirus has been identified. The individual is a resident of Ward County. A confirmatory test will be done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The patient is self-isolating and recovering at home. The North Dakota Department of Health is working to identify people who have been in close contact with the affected individual.

According to First District Health Unit Health Officer Dr. Casmiar Nwaigwe, "Symptoms of this illness are very similar to influenza, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Symptoms can appear within 2 days, and up to 14 days after coming in contact with a person who has the virus. It is very, very important that anyone with flu-like symptoms stay home. If you have symptoms and have been in contact with someone who has coronavirus, call your health care provider before going to the clinic."

Executive Officer Lisa Clute urges local residents to be prepared, but not panic. "The best way to prevent the spread of illness is to avoid crowds, practice good handwashing and stay home if you are sick."

For questions related to the COVID-19 coronavirus, the public can call the NDDoH health hotline at 866-207-2880 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Individuals who need medical advice should contact their health care provider.

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