

Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Acknowledge First Local Cases of COVID-19



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAKE FOREST, Ill. (March 19, 2020) – Lake Forest officials acknowledged a recent media report of a local resident announcing that he tested positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus. In addition, a Lake Bluff resident has identified himself to local officials as testing positive for COVID-19 and consented to his case being publicized.

“Our prayers go out to local families that have been affected by this illness. We wish for their speedy recovery,” said Lake Forest Mayor George Pandaleon. “We are also praying for the many others throughout the County and State that are grappling with this pandemic. This is just the beginning, so please stay home and avoid making the situation worse.”

“This is a clear signal that the time is now to follow the guidance of health care professionals,” said Lake Bluff Village President Kathleen O’Hara. “We know that there are at least 22 cases in Lake County and that this virus is actively spreading in our community. We ask all of our residents to please stay home and keep their distance from others.”

The most current public health guidance emphasizes that the best way to stop the spread of COVID-19 is to maintain social distance from others. People should stay home as much as possible and should not leave home at all if they are ill except to seek medical attention. Outside the home, people should keep a minimum of six feet of distance from others at all times and avoid personal contact like handshakes. Each person should wash their hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, especially before leaving home and immediately after returning home.

No further information regarding either case will be provided by the City or the Village. Additionally, as more cases are expected in Lake County, no additional case announcements will be made by the City or the Village. The Lake County Health Department and the Illinois Department of Public Health are both issuing regular announcements regarding COVID-19 cases in the area.

Federal patient privacy laws limit how much information can be provided regarding cases of COVID-19. Unless disclosed voluntarily by the patient, a local health department will typically only report the total number of cases occurring within its jurisdiction. For Lake Bluff and Lake Forest, this means that case counts will only be reported for Lake County as a whole. In both current cases, the patient voluntarily identified themselves.

More information on COVID-19 in Illinois, including advice for prevention, is available at coronavirus.illinois.gov.

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