**Public Information Statement**

NEWS RELEASE

April 9, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRANT COUNTY, WI COVID-19 UPDATE #11

**Grant County Health Department Announces the First Death of a Resident Testing Positive for COVID-19 in Grant County**

*Grant County, WI-* The Grant County Health Department reported the first death of a resident that tested positive for COVID-19.  The individual was over 80 years of age.

"We are very saddened by the death of this individual and our hearts go out to the family, and the community", said Jeff Kindrai, Director/Health Officer of the Department.

The Grant County Health Department is working with state and local partners as well as health care providers to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to help protect the health and safety of Grant County residents. The public should follow steps to avoid getting sick including:

- Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, group camping, visitors in your home, and non-essential workers in your house);

- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;

- Covering coughs and sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands);

- Regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces;

- Not shaking hands;

- Avoiding touching your face; and

- Staying home.

"Staying at home and social distancing are our best tools" says Kindrai, "Everything matters.  The better we do our part in protecting ourselves and others the better our outcomes will be and the quicker we will get through this."

This is a rapidly changing situation, and we encourage the public to frequently monitor the DHS website for updates, and to follow @DHSWI on Facebook and Twitter, dhs.wi on Instagram, and the Grant County Health Department at www.co.grant.wi.gov Additional information can be found on the CDC website.

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