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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ELKO COUNTY RECEIVES FIRST POSITIVE CASE OF COVID-19**

Elko County was notified Wednesday by the Nevada Department of Public and Behavioral Health of the first positive case of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in the county.

The case is a female in her 30s who has no underlying medical conditions. After feeling symptoms, the patient was tested on March 16, 2020 and has been in self-isolation since being tested. The State is contact tracing and monitoring the patient and family in the home.

While this is a serious public health threat, the immediate risk to the general public in Elko County is considerably low. There have been no positive COVID-19 cases reported in Humboldt, Lander, Eureka or White Pine counties.

The public can help response by:

- Not going to the emergency room unless it is essential. Emergency departments need to be able to serve the most severe needs. If you need to go to the emergency room and you believe you have COVID-19, please call ahead to allow staff to prepare for your arrival. To call ahead, 775-738-5151.
- If you are experiencing symptoms such as fever, fatigue, cough, and aches, **call your health care provider** to identify the safest way to receive care. Let them know if you have traveled to an affected area within the last 14 days or have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19.
- Practice every day preventative actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses:
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others.
  - If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness.
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Serious respiratory illnesses are spread by cough, sneezing or unclean hands.
  - Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
  - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe. Remember to clean your cellphones.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people. However, don't be afraid to support your local restaurants by ordering food-to-go or using a delivery option.

At this time, Nevada Department of Public and Behavioral Health is actively investigating this case and will provide information through the Elko County Health Officer, Dr. Bryce Putnam,

when it becomes available. Stay informed; for more information on COVID-19 visit [www.elkocountynv.net](http://www.elkocountynv.net) and <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov>.

The taskforce will continue to provide regular updates to the progress and response for COVID-19.

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