Office of the City Manager
City Hall • 375 Merrimack Street • Lowell, MA 01852
P: 978.970.4000 • F: 978.970.4007
www.LowellMA.gov

Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

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Contact: Phil Geoffroy
Executive Assistant-Communications
978-674-4400 | pgeoffroy@lowellma.gov

Lowell Residents Tests Positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19)

On Sunday, March 15, the City of Lowell was notified by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) that two Lowell residents have tested positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19), marking the first presumptive positive cases in the City. The cases are being handled according to stringent protocols recommended by DPH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As of March 15, according to statistics produced by DPH, there have been 164 confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts.

Since January, as reported cases of COVID-19 began to climb around the globe, the Lowell Health Department has engaged in extensive efforts in coordination with local public health partners to ensure the City of Lowell's preparedness in the event of an outbreak. The Department has worked closely with DPH to implement measures necessary to protect the health of Lowell residents and visitors. Currently, the Lowell Health Department is working to identify and notify individuals that may have been exposed to the presumptive positive cases.

Given the growing risks associated with the spread of COVID-19 locally, the City of Lowell is urging all residents to exercise vigilance in adhering to recommended practices aimed at reducing transmission.

Protect yourself and others:
- Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, and eyes with unwashed hands
- Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not with your hands)
- Clean and disinfect surface area frequently
- Remain out of congregate settings, avoid mass gatherings, and keep distance from others
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home from work or school if you are sick

Residents are also urged to be alert to symptoms of the virus. Call your healthcare professional if you have a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, and have either been in close contact with a person

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known to have COVID-19 or if you live or have recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. They will instruct you on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness.

The symptoms of this infection include:
- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing

Any questions related to COVID-19 can be directed to the Lowell Health Department during regular business hours, at 978-674-4010. For the latest updates and information on the status of COVID-19 locally, monitor lowellma.gov/coronavirus.

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