



March 25, 2020

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

COVID-19 UPDATE – Timeline

Havre, Montana – Hill County Health Department and Northern Montana Hospital have confirmed the first case of COVID-19 in a Hill county resident. The man, in his 60s, has been instructed to remain isolated at home until he has fully recovered. The health department will release no other identifying information about the patient to protect his privacy in keeping with federal law.

Public Health nurses will interview him to find out where he’s been in the past two weeks and with whom he might have had direct contact. Anyone who is a direct contact will get a phone call from Hill County Health Department with instructions on how to proceed.

The incubation period for the virus that causes COVID-19 is 14 days. That means someone who’s been exposed to the virus is likely to get sick within two weeks, if at all. We hope residents will continue to practice good personal hygiene and distance themselves socially to help prevent the spread of the disease now that it’s officially here in the county.

All of the preventative measures put in place over the past weeks take on new importance now that we know COVID-19 is in our community.

More information about COVID-19 can be found at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

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