March 27, 2020

Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health (BBPH) Update

COVID-19 response efforts:

There are now 68 positive COVID-19 cases in the state of North Dakota, with 10 of those added today. Of those 10 new cases, 2 were in Burleigh County for a total of 25 positive cases in Burleigh County. Sixteen individuals are hospitalized throughout the state.

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) reported the first confirmed death of a North Dakota resident due to COVID-19. The death occurred in a man in his 90s from Cass County who had underlying health conditions and acquired COVID-19 through community spread, meaning the source of infection was unknown.

As of March 27, 2020, Burleigh County has the most cases in the state of North Dakota.

For current information go to:
Renae Moch, Director of Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health provided the Bismarck City Commission COVID-19 update. It has valuable information about COVID-19 testing, Contact Tracing, Case Investigation, Symptoms, How to Protect Yourself and Resources. You can click on the link http://24.111.15.98:8100/CablecastPublicSite/show/6987 and watch from 12:08 to 23.57.

- It is important now more than ever to continue to practice social distancing to slow the spread. To learn more about social distancing and how to protect yourself and family go to: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html

- Due to the increase in positive cases in our area, the state has reached out to us to assist with contact tracing for these individuals. BBPH staff will continue to conduct contact tracing.

- Individuals identified as close contacts of someone testing positive with COVID-19 will receive a phone call from the North Dakota Department of Health or the local public health department. You will then be provided with the appropriate steps to take next. Additionally, if a school or daycare is involved, letters will be sent to all parents. For more information visit https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus.

- Steps to take to avoid the spread of COVID-19
  - Stay home if you’re sick.
  - Practice good hygiene: wash your hands, avoid touching your face and cover coughs and sneezes.
  - If someone in the household has tested positive for coronavirus, keep the entire household at home.
  - Older individuals and those with underlying health conditions should stay away from other people.
  - Work from home when possible.
  - Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips and social visits. Use take-out and delivery services.

- What to do if you have symptoms:
  - Individuals who think they may have COVID-19 but have minor symptoms should self-isolate at home.
  - Individuals seeking medical attention should call before they go in.
  - Symptoms of COVID-19 in people who have been exposed can include fever, cough and shortness of breath.
  - The symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure.
  - For questions related to COVID-19, the public can call the ND Department of Health hotline at 1-866-207-2880 from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Individuals who need medical advice should contact their health care provider.

- If you are being tested, find what you should know in the guide at the NDDOH link: https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/Fact_Sheet_for_People_Being_Tested.pdf
City of Bismarck Services

- The City of Bismarck activated an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) this week in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - EOC’s are activated and utilized during situations that go outside the span of control of a singular entity within the City, and provide for a single source entity for collecting, validating, analyzing, and organizing emergency information to provide for effective decision making.
  - The goals and objectives of the Bismarck EOC are the following:
    - Address and slow the spread of COVID-19
    - Collaborate with Community Partners
    - Educate the Public
    - Continue to Support Essential City Services

- Key items the EOC has been working on through March 27 include:
  - Preparations for housing homeless individuals
  - Addressing issues and options for transportation for homeless individuals
  - Establishing connections with the local business community working group

- Bismarck Public Works asks residents to bag their garbage. The city is committed to providing garbage collection service through these unforeseen circumstances and ever-changing pandemic. We are also committed to protecting our employee’s health to ensure garbage collection continues to be a service, and we are requesting some assistance from the public.
  - Please make sure all garbage is bagged, inside and outside the container. If it is outside the garbage container and not bagged, it will not be picked up. Tree branches will be picked up, but they need to be bundled in 4-foot sections, and able to be picked up by one person.
  - Bismarck Public Works appreciates the cooperation to keep our staff safe, and to ensure that garbage collection remains as a service to the community. We also remind citizens that the landfill will be open Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for any refuse items that cannot be bagged. For more information visit www.bismarcknd.gov.

- Building Inspections Services Division has developed procedures in response to COVID-19. In an effort to reduce exposure and to protect the general public and our city employees, inspections will be suspended for all projects where access to an occupied dwelling unit is required. We are working hard to continue to provide inspections services during this unprecedented time and appreciate everyone’s flexibility while we prioritize lower risk locations such as new residential and commercial projects, including healthcare facilities and critical infrastructure. Further details about the procedures can be found at: https://www.bismarcknd.gov/111/Building-Inspections.

- A list of City departments providing essential services, and contact information for each, is available at: https://www.bismarcknd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/35260/COVID-19-Essential-Operations-Phone-Guide-PDF
We encourage the public to follow Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health and the City of Bismarck on our social media sites for essential information. For the most updated and timely information related to COVID-19, visit the City of Bismarck web site at www.bismarcknd.gov and follow us on https://www.facebook.com/BBPH.gov/, https://twitter.com/BBPublicHealth, www.facebook.com/bismarcknd.gov and www.twitter.com/BismarckNDGov.

Emergency Alert Feature is Now Activated on the City of Bismarck Website. This Emergency Alert Feature provides you with the latest news and information on COVID-19 and the actions the City of Bismarck is taking in response to it. To receive real-time updates via text and email from the alert system on your handheld devices sign up for “Notify Me” at https://www.bismarcknd.gov/list.aspx.

Stay Connected with the City of Bismarck Mobile App Download Bismarck’s mobile app to stay connected to official city resources, news, and information from your smart phone, tablet or other hand-held devices. Visit https://bismarcknd.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=6574 to see how to sign up.

Remember that live meeting coverage of government meetings is available for viewing on Government Access Channels 2 & 602HD or listen to the meeting at Radio Access 102.5 FM Radio, or stream https://dakotamediaaccess.org/ch-2-home/ and https://radioaccess.org/.

Bismarck Municipal Court is restricting public access due to COVID-19. If you have business to conduct with them call 701-355-1350.

The Burleigh County Courthouse is restricting public access due to COVID-19. If you have business to conduct with any department located in the Courthouse, contact them for instructions regarding alternate communications (phone, email, website, mail, drop box). Phone number 701-355-1350 and website https://www.bismarcknd.gov/93/Municipal-Court.

Effective March 23, 2020, Bis-Man Transit restricted public access to its facility and implemented changes to Capital Area Transit (fixed-route) and Paratransit service until further notice. Call 701-258-6817 or visit https://bismantransit.com/ for more information.

Be aware, if you are receiving phone calls or e-mails asking for donations or personal information it could be scam. Members of the public can report suspected fraud scam related to COVID-19 by calling the National Center for Disaster Fraud hotline at 866-720-5721 or emailing disaster@leo.gov.

Information and Resources
- Daily Bulletin
- City of Bismarck website
- COVID-19 information NDDoH website
- COVID-19 Hotline 7 am-10 pm: 1-866-207-2880
- Centers for Disease Control Español
- NDResponse.gov
- ND Response: COVID-19 Personal, Family and Community Support
- Where to Go for Help Resources
- Missouri River Game and Fish boat ramp access status
- Department of Commerce resources for businesses
- Federal Trade Commission Tips for Coronavirus Scams
- Follow us on www.facebook.com/BBPH.gov and www.twitter.com/BBPublicHealth
- www.facebook.com/bismarcknd.gov and www.twitter.com/BismarckNDGov
- Stay Connected with the City of Bismarck Mobile App