



## PRESS RELEASE

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Melissa Brummell, RN, Director of Public Health  
Department of Public Health  
7 Placer Loop, Virginia City, MT  
Office: 406.843.4295

Bonnie O'Neill  
Public Information Officer  
Madison County  
103 W Wallace St. PO Box 278  
Virginia City, MT 59755  
Commissioners' Office 406.843.4277

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### Madison County Weekly Update COVID-19 Virus and Pertussis

As of April 4, 2020, the Madison County Public Health Department reports 55 negative test results with six positive cases of COVID-19 in Madison County including one death. In the State of Montana 265 confirmed cases and five deaths were reported on April 3, 2020.

On March 27, 2020, the Madison County Public Health Department confirmed a positive Pertussis (whooping cough) case. Whooping cough is a highly contagious respiratory disease and is known for causing uncontrollable, violent coughing which often makes it hard to breathe. All identified close contacts were treated for disease prevention. No other cases in Madison County have been identified at this time. The social distancing rule for COVID-19 most likely had a positive impact on the limited spread of this disease.

Melissa Brummell, RN, Public Health Director with Madison County Public Health advises the two individuals who tested positive this week for the coronavirus in Madison County are a male and female resident in their 20s and 40s. Neither case had any known direct contact with other COVID-19 positive cases. All of the individuals in close contact have been notified and are on a 14-day home quarantine.

Individuals may be sick with the virus for 1 to 14 days before developing symptoms. The most common symptoms of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) are fever, tiredness, dry cough and difficulty breathing (severe cases). Most people (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing special treatment. If you are a member of the public and are concerned about being tested for COVID-19, please contact your primary care provider.

You can help decrease the amount of people exposure to the virus by following the Stay-At-Home Order and by following basic prevention as listed below.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, you can take simple steps to protect yourself and your family:

- Stay home if you are sick;
- Avoid contact with sick people when possible;
- Cover your cough and sneezes with the crook of your elbow or a tissue;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth and wash your hands frequently; and
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Please call ahead to a healthcare professional if you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or difficulty breathing, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently traveled to an area with ongoing spread. Tell your healthcare professional about your recent travel or contact. Your healthcare professional will work with the local public health department and CDC to determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19. See CDC symptom checker at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> for additional information.