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|  | *Crater Health District****News Release*** |
| 109 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219 |

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 30, 2020

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#  Crater Health District Confirms First Case of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Surry

(Surry, Virginia)- The Crater Health District announced today a Surry resident has tested positive for coronavirus 19 (COVID-19).   This marks the first positive COVID-19 case in Surry County. The patient is a female in her 70s who is currently hospitalized.

“There is an increased risk among the elderly, those with underlying conditions, and close contacts of persons infected with COVID-19,” said Crater Health District Director Alton Hart, Jr., MD, MPH. “We continue to work closely with our city, county and community partners to respond to cases in the Crater Health District, to monitor patient updates, and identify their close contacts,”

COVID-19 spreads primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Most patients with COVID-19 have mild to moderate symptoms. However, in a small proportion of patients, COVID-19 can lead to more severe illness, including death, particularly among those who are older or those who have chronic medical conditions. Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Symptoms appear within 14 days after exposure to an infectious person.

To lower the risk from spreading respiratory germs, including COVID-19, the Virginia Department of Health encourages the following effective behaviors:

* Stay home when you are sick as much as possible, especially when you are sick.
* A and avoid close contact with those who are sick
* Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer only if soap and water are not available.
* Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
* Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
* Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
* Practice social distancing. Maintain at least six feet of space between yourself and other individuals when out in public.

The Crater Health District has activated a coronavirus call center, staffed Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. to address questions from residents. Community members may call 804-862-8989.  The Virginia Department of Health has also activated a public information line, 877-ASK-VDH3, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Information is available on the following websites: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) or [www.vdh.virginia.gov/corona/virus](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/corona/virus)

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*NOTE: This case is not yet included on the statewide count on the VDH website. Cases are updated daily at*[*www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus*](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus)*, with the numbers as of 5 p.m. the evening before.*