



March 26, 2020

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**COVID-19 Daily Update: March 26, 2020**

**Coldwater, MI** – The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency is moving toward a daily notification model to local media. This is necessary as the number of positive cases begins to increase within the 3-county service district.

**Counts by County**

	Branch County	Hillsdale County	St. Joseph County
# of Cases	2*	5	0
# of Pending Test Results	6	20	10
# Individuals We Know About That Have Been Tested Ever	15	39	38

\*Both cases in Lakeland Correctional Facility

Total cases statewide as of 2 pm today are 2,856 with 60 deaths attributed to COVID-19.

Resources for distribution:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf>

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/Person\\_Exposure\\_Final\\_3-25-2020\\_684832\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/Person_Exposure_Final_3-25-2020_684832_7.pdf)

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency (BHSJCHA) will contact people who have been in close contact with patients, and will assess for symptoms and quarantine and monitor appropriately. “Residents in Branch, Hillsdale, and St. Joseph counties can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by staying home and following Governor Whitmer’s Executive Order [Stay Home. Stay Safe. Save Lives.](#), states Rebecca Burns, Health Officer. “Whether sick or well, staying home and using social distancing along with practicing good handwashing, avoiding touching the face, and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces are the best strategies for everyone to practice at this time.”

BHSJCHA is asking anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 to self-isolate for 14 days to avoid potentially exposing others. And for individuals that have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, to self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor themselves for fever, cough, and shortness of breath. COVID-19 symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, people should:

- [Stay Home. Stay Safe. Save Lives.](#) in compliance with Governor Whitmer’s Executive Order
- Wash their hands
- Stay home when sick
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Avoid touching their face
- Disinfect commonly touched surfaces
- When you must go out for groceries and other necessary supplies; only those people absolutely needed for the task should go, others should stay home.
- Keep six feet between yourself and others
- Work from home if you are a non-essential worker

People who are concerned that they may have COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider and **call ahead** before visiting any healthcare facility. Mildly ill people are encouraged to stay home and contact their healthcare provider by phone for guidance. If you feel well, you do not need to be tested. Testing is determined based on risk assessment.

Information about the COVID-19 situation locally, and in Michigan is rapidly changing. For more information, visit [www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org).

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency is committed to promoting wellness, preventing disease, providing health care, and protecting the environment. For additional information, contact your local health department office or visit [www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org) and follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BHSJCHA](https://www.facebook.com/BHSJCHA).

**Branch County**

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Coldwater, MI 49036  
(517) 279-9561

**Hillsdale County**

20 Care Drive  
Hillsdale, MI 49242  
(517) 437-7395

**St. Joseph County**

1110 Hill St.  
Three Rivers, MI 49093  
(269) 273-2161

**Sturgis Office**

1555 E. Chicago Rd.  
Sturgis, MI 49091  
(269) 273-2161  
Wednesday – Friday

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