

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ANGELA D. ALSOBROOKS**

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Thursday, March 12, 2020

For More Information:

Gina Ford
Communications Director
Office of the County Executive
Prince George's County
w. 301.952.4670
c. 202.744.3308
erford@co.pg.md.us

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CONFIRMS ITS FOURTH CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) CASE

LARGO, MD – Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced today that the County confirmed its fourth positive case of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. The County learned about the confirmed case late yesterday evening from the Maryland Department of Health.

"The health and safety of every Prince Georgian is our top priority, and we will continue to take the appropriate steps and provide the latest updates to protect the well-being of all our residents," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "Working together, we can all do our part to help prevent the spread of this virus in our community."

The patient is a man in his sixties who is currently receiving treatment in a hospital. His travel history is under investigation by the Prince George's County Health Department and the State of Maryland, and we are conducting a contact tracing investigation to determine exposure within the County.

"This is an important moment in our humanity and our health," Prince George's County Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter. "At this time, we need to make difficult but necessary adjustments to our lives and our activities to help contain this virus."

Today we also announced extended hours for our County's dedicated coronavirus hotline, staffed by the Prince George's County Health Department. The hours are now 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily, making the Prince George's County coronavirus hotline the first in the State of Maryland to be open on weekends. Residents can call this hotline at 301-883-6627.

The County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Joint Information Center (JIC) were escalated to a partial activation level on March 10, 2020 to respond to the evolving situation,

which allows the County to continue taking the appropriate steps to keep Prince Georgians safe and healthy. The EOC and JIC have been activated at an enhanced level since March 4, 2020, prior to any of the first confirmed cases in the State of Maryland.

County agencies have taken a number of steps to prepare for the coronavirus and prevent the spread of germs prior to confirmation of the first case. The Health Department continues to encourage the public to practice prevention measures similar to that of cold and flu season. We encourage residents to wash your hands frequently with soap and water, cover coughs and sneezes with your arm or sleeve, and stay home when you are sick.

Additionally, we encourage residents to practice social distancing – avoiding crowds and avoiding people who are sick. This is especially important for senior citizens and for those with severe chronic medical conditions, such as heart, lung or kidney disease, who are at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19. If you feel you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough and shortness of breath, contact a health care provider to discuss your symptoms prior to going to the doctor.

Information and updates about COVID-19, in addition to preparation and actions taken by the Prince George's County Government, are available at health.mypgc.us/coronavirus. Residents can also call the County's Health Department coronavirus hotline with questions or concerns at 301-883-6627.

###