

# **COVID-19 Update March 28, 2020: Public Health Announces 3 Additional Deaths, 49 Additional Positive Cases in Delaware**

SMYRNA (March 28, 2020) – The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) is announcing three additional fatalities related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and is providing an update on the number of positive cases reported in the state.

In total, five Delawareans have passed away due to complications from COVID-19. The most recent deaths involve a 76-year-old male from New Castle County who was not hospitalized; a 74-year-old Kent County male who was hospitalized; and a 77-year-old Kent County male who was hospitalized. All three individuals had underlying health conditions. The source of exposure for these cases is not confirmed. To protect personal health information, DPH will not disclose additional information about the individuals who passed away.

There have been 214 total laboratory-confirmed cases in the state since March 11. This includes 49 additional cases since Friday. Of the Delawareans diagnosed with COVID-19, 130 are from New Castle County, 25 are from Kent County, and 59 are from Sussex County. The total number of positive cases represents a cumulative total of cases, including individuals who are currently ill, and those who are considered recovered. Nine Delaware residents have recovered from COVID-19.

Patients are considered fully recovered seven days after the resolution of their symptoms (three days after symptoms

resolve, they are no longer required to self-isolate at home; however, they must continue to practice extreme social distancing for the remaining four days).

Of the 214 cases, 105 are male and 109 are female. The individuals range in age from 1 to 90. Thirty-one individuals are currently hospitalized, eight are critically ill. To protect personal health information, DPH will not disclose additional information about the individuals. DPH cannot confirm specific information even if other entities choose to make their own announcements.

The source of exposure for many of these positive cases is unknown, which indicates community spread of the virus is occurring in the state. In an effort to provide more demographic information to the public, additional information has been incorporated into Delaware's data dashboard located at [de.gov/coronavirus](https://de.gov/coronavirus).

Through the Governor's State of Emergency, Delawareans are to stay home, except if your business has been deemed essential. The Governor's order does allow Delawareans who need to see a doctor, pick up a prescription, buy groceries, or engage in other activities essential to their health to leave their residences. If you are sick with any symptoms, stay home. If you are sick and need essential supplies, ask someone else to go to the grocery store or the pharmacy to get what you need.

If you think you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or have symptoms of illness, make sure to distance yourself from others, particularly vulnerable populations. This includes people 60 years of age and older; people with serious chronic health conditions such as diabetes, lung disease, heart disease; or those who are immunocompromised.

For individuals who are sick, stay home and contact your primary care provider for guidance regarding symptoms and next steps. DPH urges individuals who are sick, even with mild

symptoms that would be present with a cold or flu, to stay home to help prevent the spread of illness to others.

Statewide testing at standing health facility testing sites require a physician's order or prescription to be tested (\*Bayhealth patients will be pre-screened via phone without needing to see a provider first). These are not walk-in testing sites. Those without a primary care provider can call the DPH Call Center Line at 1-866-408-1899. Individuals awaiting test results, should wait to hear back from their medical provider. The DPH Call Center does not have test results.

Delawareans with general questions about COVID-19 or their exposure risk can call the Division of Public Health's Coronavirus Call Center at 1-866-408-1899, or 711 for individuals who are hearing-impaired, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Questions can also be submitted by email at [DPHCall@delaware.gov](mailto:DPHCall@delaware.gov).

DPH will continue to update the public as more information becomes available. For the latest on Delaware's response, go to [de.gov/coronavirus](https://de.gov/coronavirus).