



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**11/2/2020**

## **RIPLEY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS 9th COVID-19 DEATH**

Ripley County Department of Health announced today the 9<sup>th</sup> death of a Ripley County community member from Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The individual was an adult male from Ripley County.

"It is with a heavy heart that we are yet again reporting the loss of another community member and inform our county of this sad news. Our sincere condolences to the family." Ripley County Health Officer David J. Welsh, M.D said. "In addition to this citizen passing away we have experienced a marked increase in positive COVID-19 cases in Ripley County. We ask that the community continue to redouble all efforts to protect yourself & family members with social distancing, handwashing, mask wearing and self-isolation when appropriate."

No further information will be released due to privacy laws.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel, or new, coronavirus that has not been previously identified. It is not the same as the type of coronavirus that causes the common cold.

COVID-19 is most commonly spread from an infected person to others through:

- Respiratory droplets released into the air by coughing and sneezing;
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands;
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands; and
- Rarely, fecal contamination.

Many people who acquire COVID-19 will have mild symptoms, they should self-isolate and consult their primary care physician regarding testing.

The best ways to protect yourself are to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoid touching your face with unwashed hands, avoid close contact with people who are sick, stay home when you're sick, cover your cough or sneeze and clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.

Visit the Ripley County Health Department's website at <http://www.ripleyhealth.com> or the Indiana Department of Health's COVID-19 website at <https://coronavirus.IN.gov> for more information, including frequently asked questions about COVID-19.