RIPLEY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS
2nd COVID-19 DEATH

Ripley County Department of Health announced today the 2nd death from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The individual was an adult female from Ripley County.

"It is yet again, and with a heavy heart that we are informing our county of this sad news. Our condolences to the family," Ripley County Health Officer David J. Welsh, M.D said. "We ask that the community redouble their efforts to protect yourself & family with social distancing, handwashing, and self-isolation when appropriate."

The adult female from Ripley County died at The Christ Hospital. The person, who was over age 60, had been hospitalized as a COVID-19 patient. No further information about the patient 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 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, can self-isolate and do not need to be tested. Older individuals and those with underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness.

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) does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. You should only wear a mask if a healthcare professional recommends it. A facemask should be used by people who have COVID-19 and are showing symptoms to protect others from the risk of infection.

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