

## 3/24/2020 #2 Crowley/Otero Update: POSITIVE COVID-19 Case In Otero County

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### **3/24/2020 #2 Crowley/Otero Update: POSITIVE COVID-19 Case In Otero County**

Original information from earlier today is highlighted in yellow (below). I wanted to give an update about today's epidemiological investigation regarding the Otero County positive COVID-19 case.

- ✓ The patient is under isolation and potential, high risk contacts are under quarantine.
- ✓ Thanks to the very quick action of medical providers and public health, isolation and quarantine were put in place very quickly.
- ✓ Those under isolation and quarantine are being compliant and cooperative.
- ✓ To date, our investigation has found no connection between the Otero County case and the Crowley County case.
- ✓ I want to be very clear on this next point: Though this investigation is still underway, this may (notice I said "may") be early evidence of limited community spread. It's just too early to say definitively at this point. However, this is NOT unanticipated and comes as no surprise if this is, in fact, the case. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) defines "Limited Community Spread" as follows: "Limited community spread (or transmission) means there are cases and outbreaks in certain communities where people became infected, and we are unable to identify the source." This is exactly where we are with both of our positive cases right now. We are definitely not at widespread community spread (or transmission), which is defined by CDPHE as follows: "Widespread community spread (or transmission) means there are cases and outbreaks in many communities where people are spreading the virus to other people." As information becomes clearer, I will let you know.
- ✓ Continue to comply with the state public health orders that have been put in place, which are directed at reducing the spread of COVID-19.

And now, a BIG THANKS to Cynthia Martinez, of our local Social Security office. That office is donating approximately 180 respirator masks for our Health Care Workers (HCW) with direct patient access! WAY TO GO!

Until next time,

*Rick*

Hello to all. This morning (Tuesday 3/24/2020) the Otero County Health Department (OCHD) received a lab report on a resident from Otero County that has tested positive to COVID-19.

Out of respect for patient privacy, we will only release the following information (No other information will be released at this time):

- ✓ The patient
  - was previously quarantined while awaiting the test results
  - was placed into isolation after receiving the positive test results

- is a resident of Otero County
- age: 40s
- is recovering

Our priority tasks this morning will be epidemiological contact investigations, risk assessments, and patient isolation information (disease control and containment measures) based upon the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. We will specifically be looking into any possible connections to the Crowley County case.

If you feel the need to talk about this, we have a special line open, 719-383-3050.

All media requests will go through our Public Information Officer (PIO), Amy Tanabe, at 719-383-3000.

I am hoping to release a Public Health Matters article in the future that will give you some insight into epidemiological risk assessments, please watch for it.

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