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**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THIS WIDELY**

**4/9/2020 #1 Crowley/Otero COVID-19 Update: New Positive Otero County Case**

**Please take the time to read and understand this entire message.**

**Internet links: Before I send out each update, I check the links to make sure they are active. However, links do change from time to time, so the links I sent out today may not be the same tomorrow. You may have to search around a bit.**

**New COVID-19 positive case**

Hello to all. We have had another laboratory confirmed case in Otero County.

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 placed into quarantine prior to receiving the positive test results.
  - was placed into isolation after receiving the positive test results.
  - is a resident of Otero County.
  - age: 40s
  - is recovering.

Our epidemiology investigation into where the patient may have contracted the illness is ongoing.

Seeing new cases is not surprising at all. In fact, a very recent email I received from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) said “As Colorado enters the acceleration interval of the pandemic and the number of cases diagnosed and reported in Colorado increases...” So, as far as pandemics go, this is expected. Let’s all work together, though, to keep the number of new cases as low as possible! We can do this by reading, understanding, and complying with all Colorado public health orders. Our newest guidance is the mask campaign. My family and I are wearing our cloth masks, how about you? I have a black cloth mask, and my friend Larry refers to me as Lord Vader. I have definitely been called worse!

I have attached an FAQ about the mask campaign, please check it out. If you want even more info about masks, direct your browser here and click on the “Masks” tab: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/frequently-asked-questions-faq>

**Crowley/Otero case numbers updates:** Our current COVID-19 laboratory-confirmed case counts for Crowley and Otero Counties are as follows (as of the time of this writing Thursday, 4/9/2020):

- ✓ 1-Crowley County case (deceased)
- ✓ 5-Otero County cases
- ✓ TOTAL Crowley/Otero Cases: 6

**Colorado numbers updates** (Note: this summary only includes data through 4 pm on 4/7/2020 and does not reflect cases since then)

- ✓ 5,655 cases

- ✓ 1,162 hospitalized
- ✓ 54 counties
- ✓ 29,199 people tested
- ✓ 193 deaths
- ✓ 44 outbreaks at residential and non-hospital health care facilities

**What can you do RIGHT NOW?**

- ✓ Read, understand, and comply with public health orders! Public health orders can be found here: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/stay-home-except-essential-needs>
- ✓ Stay home if you are sick and, if needed, call your medical provider.
- ✓ Wear an appropriate mask if you must go out for an essential activity.
- ✓ If you are in a high risk group, take extra precautions.
- ✓ Cover your cough and/or sneeze.
- ✓ Keep your fingers and hands away from your face.
- ✓ Wash your hands a lot.
- ✓ Stay informed by trusted and reliable sources. Be careful about believing what you read on social media sites. Trusted sources/websites:
  - OCHD: <https://www.oterogov.com>
  - Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov>
  - CO State Health Department: <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe>
- ✓ Do these things so you will be prepared, and not scared.
- ✓ And remember, "This too shall pass."

Until next time,

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