First Confirmed COVID-19 Presumptive Positive in Pueblo

Friday March 13, 2020 Pueblo, CO – Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE) reported the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Laboratory (CDPHE) confirmed the first presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in Pueblo County.

Because the testing was done at the state level, the case is a “presumptive positive” and results will be sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for confirmation.

PDPHE held a press conference at 2 p.m. today at the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment to provide more information.

The adult male is currently isolated at home and recovering. PDPHE is working closely with CDPHE to identify close contacts and continue this investigation.

“We wish for a full and quick recovery,” stated Randy Evetts, public health director at PDPHE. “Protecting the health of our community is our top priority, and we are doing everything possible to make sure the public is safe.”

PDPHE continues to work closely with local, state and federal partners to assure a streamlined response and help prevent further spread of disease in our community.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) broke down COVID-19 cases into three categories:

- Person Under Investigation (PUI) refers to those who are being investigated for coronavirus.
- A Presumptive Positive case is those who have tested positive for COVID-19 at a state or local laboratory but have to have the diagnosis confirmed by the CDC.
- Laboratory-confirmed case is when someone has tested positive for the virus at a CDC lab.

“Now, more than ever, we remind people to focus on the steps they can take to help prevent the spread of disease,” said Dr. Christopher Urbina, PDPHE Medical Director. “The best thing you can do is practice good hygiene, and stay home if you are sick.”

PDPHE reminds the public:

Prevent • Promote • Protect

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• Do not go to the emergency room unless medically necessary.
• Wash your hands with soap regularly.
• Cough or sneeze into elbow or tissue.
• Stay home when you’re sick.
• Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
• Avoid close contact with sick people.
• Clean areas frequently touched

PDPHE also encourages residents to seek out credible, reliable sources of information on COVID-19:

- [pueblohealth.org](http://pueblohealth.org)
- [colorado.gov/cdphe](http://colorado.gov/cdphe)
- [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)
- Call CO HELP at 1-877-462-2911 or email [COHELP@RMPDC.org](mailto:COHELP@RMPDC.org)
- Pueblo’s COVID-19 Hotline 719-583-4444

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