



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southwest Health and Human Services (SWHHS) was notified by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) on 6-1-2020 of the first death due to COVID-19 of a resident in Lyon County. SWHHS expresses our deepest sympathies to the family and friends for their loss.

Our communities have seen an increase in cases lately. We know that seeing the numbers rise can be very concerning. While there will be many people with mild symptoms, news like this reminds us that this virus can be severe for some. Taking steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is important, especially for our most vulnerable citizens. SWHHS wants to remind everyone to continue to follow MDH recommendations:

- *Wear a mask in public
- *Avoid enclosed spaces with groups of people
- *Get tested if you have symptoms
- *Stay 6 feet away from others
- *Cover your cough and sneeze
- *Wash your hands with soap and water frequently
- *Avoid touching your face
- *Stay home when you are ill!

Local Public Health does not have authority to share private health data, which includes the address of those who test positive with COVID-19, or any other identifying information. Such sharing is a violation of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. 13.09 (a) and (b).

For more information, please go to the Minnesota Department of Health's website devoted to COVID-19 information: <https://mn.gov/covid19/data/covid-dashboard/index.jsp>