

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Crater Health District Confirms First Case of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the city of Petersburg

(Petersburg, VA.) – The Crater Health District (CHD) announced that a resident has tested positive for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the city of Petersburg. This is the eighth case in the district and the first case in Petersburg. The patient is in her 60s did not require hospitalization and is self-isolating at home.

“Confirming a case of COVID-19 in Petersburg is not surprising given the fact that we are seeing a number of cases throughout the Crater Health District. CHD is investigating this case to identify any close contacts of this resident who may require testing or monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19,” said Crater Health District Director Alton Hart, Jr., MD, MPH. “We’ve been working with individuals who test positive to reduce the spread to others.”

Most patients have mild to moderate symptoms. However, in a small proportion of patients, COVID-19 can lead to more severe illness, including death, particularly among those who are older or those who have chronic medical conditions. Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

To lower the risk of respiratory virus spread, including COVID-19, the CDC and Virginia Department of Health encourages the following effective behaviors:

- **Stay home when you are sick.**
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer only if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- If you experience symptoms, call your doctor.

Community members may call the Crater Call Center at 804-862-8989 Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. or 877-ASK-VDH3, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Additional Information is available at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus or www.vdh.virginia.gov/corona/virus

NOTE: This case is not included on the statewide count on the VDH website. Cases are updated daily at www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus, with the numbers as of 5 p.m. the evening before.

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