FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 3, 2020

Cole County Health Department Reports First Death of COVID-19

It is with extreme sadness that the Cole County Health Department announces that we were notified at 1:41 p.m. today of the first death of a Cole County resident due to COVID-19. Out of respect for privacy, we will not be releasing any further information regarding this patient. To date, there have been 27 cases COVID-19 in Cole County, with nine recovered.

Please continue to stay home unless going out for essential activities or business. To reduce risk and prevent the spread of COVID-19, continue to follow these basic preventative measures, as outlined by the CDC, including avoiding contact with people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, proper hand-washing, avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands, cleaning frequently used surfaces, and staying home when sick.

If you suspect that you have COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, call your healthcare provider to let them know before seeking care. It is critical that you follow all instructions before arriving at a healthcare facility.

For more information please visit our website at www.colehealth.org or call the State of Missouri Hotline at 1-877-435-8411 or 1-800-392-0272.

*******