

Media Release**April 4, 2020****CK Public Health confirms first death due to COVID-19 in Chatham-Kent**

CK Public Health has been notified of a death due to COVID-19. The individual, a woman in her 80s, is the first known death in Chatham-Kent due to COVID-19. The woman was being treated at the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance since March 16th.

“We are very saddened by this news and are offering our sincere condolences to the family and those close to the individual” said Dr. David Colby, Chatham-Kent’s Medical Officer of Health.

“Tragically, this news further highlights just how important it is for us to work together as a community to stop the spread of COVID-19. Now is the time to think about protecting yourself, but also protecting those around you” reminds Dr. Colby.

CK Public Health asks residents to continue to follow good public health practices to stop the spread of COVID-19, including:

- Practice physical distancing by staying home except for essential reasons and do not have visitors to your home;
- When out for essential reasons, keep 2-metres (or 2 arm lengths) from others;
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Use 70% alcohol-based hand sanitizer if unable to use soap and water;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands;
- Cough or sneeze into a disposable tissue or into your elbow, not into your hand;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Now and in any cold and flu season, stay home if you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others.

For more information about COVID-19, residents are asked to visit <http://www.ckpublichealth.com/covid19> or call the CK Public Health COVID-19 intake line at **519.355.1071 x 1900**

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