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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local public health authorities are collaborating with community partners regarding the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak that originated in Wuhan, China. COVID-19 is the name of the disease caused by 2019-nCoV. According to the CDC, the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the U.S. remains low at this time. There have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported in Missouri at the time of this writing.

The Taney County Health Department (TCHD) is working diligently to keep local health care providers and community partners up-to-date regarding COVID-19. “We are meeting weekly with our Communicable Disease, Environmental, and Emergency Response Teams to plan our next steps in this outbreak response effort,” states Tiffany Bullock, Public Health Nurse Specializing in Communicable Disease Investigation for the Taney County Health Department. “We want our community members to know that we are communicating daily with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MO DHSS), and that MO DHSS is in direct communication with the CDC. The Department of Global Migration and Quarantine is monitoring travel from high risk areas. If a client were to travel to Missouri from those areas, we would be immediately notified,” states Bullock. The TCHD also encourages community members to take measures to protect themselves from viral illness.

Although the CDC does not recommend the use of facemasks for the **general U.S. public**, the CDC does recommend that people take everyday preventive actions to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- While sick, limit contact with others.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap is not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol.

For the most current and accurate information regarding COVID-19, visit the CDC’s website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus. If you are a business owner and want more information on keeping your employees safe and healthy go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>

If you have questions regarding COVID-19, please contact the Taney County Health Department at 417-334-4544.

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The Taney County Health Department envisions a community of healthy people. Every day, we work to achieve this vision through leadership, collaboration, education and service. We value integrity, learning, teamwork, positive communication, quality improvement and dedicated service. Please visit our website <http://www.taneycohealth.org> to learn more about our services.