NH Department of Health and Human Services 129 Pleasant Street – Hugh Gallen State Office Park Concord, NH 03301

## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 12, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION State Joint Information Center

(603) 223-6169 | jic@dos.nh.gov

## NH DHHS Announces New Presumptive Positive Test Results for COVID-19

**Concord, NH** – The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has announced a new presumptive positive test result for COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. There are currently 6 positive cases in New Hampshire.

The person is an adult male from Rockingham County who traveled to multiple countries in Europe. The person self-isolated upon return from Europe and notified their healthcare provider after developing symptoms. Household contacts have self-quarantined.

DHHS conducted an investigation into this person's activities and has determined the person has been isolated at home since returning to New Hampshire except to seek healthcare. NH DHHS has not identified any person other than household contacts in New Hampshire who may have been in close contact with this person while infectious.

Despite increased testing in our communities, the NH DHHS has not yet identified any widespread transmission in NH nor individuals who test positive without clearly identified risk factors (e.g. travel or contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case). Any person who develops fever or respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) should stay home away from others and seek health advice by phone from a healthcare provider to discuss symptoms and any risk factors for COVID-19.

Given the increasing numbers of infections globally and around the United States, all persons should:

- Stay home and avoid public places when sick (i.e. social distancing)
- Cover mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing
- Wash hands frequently
- Avoid being within 6 feet (close contact) of a person who is sick
- Avoid sharing drinks, smoking/vaping devices, or other utensils or objects that may transmit saliva
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces

For more information on COVID-19 in NH, please visit <u>https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/2019-ncov.htm</u>. For the latest information from the CDC, please visit <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html</u>.