

# CASS COUNTY, MISSOURI

HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
300 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
HARRISONVILLE, MISSOURI 64701  
(816) 380-8425 • FAX (816) 380-8450  
[WWW.CASSCOUNTY.COM/HEALTH](http://WWW.CASSCOUNTY.COM/HEALTH)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Media Contact:

Sarah Czech, Public Information Officer

SarahC@casscounty.com

Media Line: (816) 380-8425

## **Cass County Health Department Reports First Death of COVID-19**

CASS COUNTY, MO (April 1, 2020) - The Cass County Health Department is heartbroken to announce that it was informed on March 31, 2020, of the first death of a Cass County resident due to COVID-19. The Belton resident was a female in her early 70s. She tested positive for COVID-19 on March 20, 2020. The case was not travel-related and she had underlying health conditions.

Everyone is urged to take preventive actions to prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses. These actions include:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover coughs and sneezes using your elbow or shoulder rather than your hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Stay home if you are sick
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19. 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 your provider is aware you may have COVID-19 prior to your arrival at a healthcare facility and that you follow all instructions before arriving.

For more information, visit the DHSS website at [www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus](http://www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus) or the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). A statewide COVID-19 hotline also operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 877-435-8411.

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