

Morton County Health Department  
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**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 2, 2020

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The MORTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (MCHD) has been actively working in conjunction with Frontline Management to test and trace all residents and staff of the Morton County Senior Living Community (MCSLC) in Elkhart as well as any affected staff at the Morton County Hospital (MCH).

On the evening of Wednesday, May 27, 2020 a COVID-19 positive case was confirmed on one resident of Morton County Senior Living Community (MCSLC). On Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> the MCHD with help from Morton County Emergency Management (MCEM) requested assistance through the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC), from the Kansas National Guard (KNG) to assist with testing. That request was filled and on the morning of Friday May 29, 2020, KNG sent a response team to conduct COVID-19 tests on all residents and staff of the MCSLC as well as hospital staff in contact with the positive case.

There were approximately 141 COVID-19 tests performed by the KNG and 2 additional positive cases were identified, all others were negative. Contact tracing is currently being done to help limit the spread of this infection. The patient who first tested positive, a 72-year-old nursing home resident, died in a hospital in a nearby county on June 1. This is Morton County's first reported death from COVID-19.

MCHD and MCEM would like to thank KDEM and the KNG personnel that coordinated, responded and performed the testing. MCHD would also like to thank the staff at the MCSLC for all of their cooperation. MCHD and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) recommend that residents and visitors in Morton County continue to practice good hygiene, stay informed, wear masks in public, practice social distancing and limit close personal interactions.

Morton County residents can stay informed by visiting the following internet sites:  
<https://www.facebook.com/MortonCountyHealthDepartment/>, [www.COVID.ks.gov](http://www.COVID.ks.gov),  
<http://www.mtcoks.com/>, <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/>, or  
<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>.

For general information, contact the KDHE phone bank at 1-866-534-3463 (1-866-KDHEINF) or email COVID-19@ks.gov. You may also contact the Morton County Health Department at 620-697-2612.

