Calvert County NEWS

175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
Phone: 410-535-2003
www.calvertcountymd.gov

Board of Commissioners
Earl F. Hance
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Thomas E. Hutchins
Kelly D. McConkey
Steven R. Weems

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Linda Vassallo, Director, Communications & Media Relations
410-535-2003   Linda.Vassallo@calvertcountymd.gov
Sarah Ehman, Public Information Program Manager
410-535-2003   Sarah.Ehman@calvertcountymd.gov

Calvert County Update on COVID-19 Case Numbers, Testing for March 27

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – March 27, 2020 – Calvert County officials continue to urge residents to take strong precautions and avoid all unnecessary public contact to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 virus through the community.

The Calvert County Health Department reports a total of eight COVID-19 cases in Calvert County. There have been no reported deaths in Calvert County due to COVID-19. According to the Calvert County Health Department, the recent increase in COVID-19 diagnoses in Calvert County reflects a combination of community transmission of the virus and an increase in the number of people being tested.

Due to a continued nationwide shortage of testing supplies, healthcare providers determine who should be tested, based on specific symptoms. Not everyone who feels ill needs to be tested, and are advised to stay home and stay away from people.

Local and state officials are working to increase testing availability as more test kits and lab capacity are in place. While testing is becoming more available, there are still limitations on the ability to quickly collect and process tests.

Residents are encouraged to visit the Calvert County Health Department website at www.calverthealth.org for local case updates and testing information.

Although COVID-19 more severely impacts individuals who are older or have underlying chronic health conditions, anyone can spread the virus – even those experiencing

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moderate to mild symptoms that may go undiagnosed. To protect the health of the community and to prevent overburdening the local health system, all citizens are advised to adhere to public health guidance to protect yourself and limit the number of people infected:

- Avoid gatherings, both public and private.

- Stay home as much as possible; go to stores only when necessary for essential items and avoid taking children and other family members with you if you can.

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. Use a hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- Protect others by staying home if you are sick.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.

- Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily, including doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets and sinks.

Anyone who is concerned that they may be infected with the coronavirus should contact their primary care provider by phone or patient portal (if available) to determine whether or not testing is appropriate.

Do not go to the emergency room or call 911 for COVID-19 unless you are experiencing emergency warning signs such as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or bluish lips or face.

Visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Coronavirus for further updates, guidance and resources. Updates will continue to appear on the Calvert County Government website, www.CalvertCountyMd.gov, Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd and Comcast Channel 6.

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