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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Portage County COVID Related Death Reported

Portage County Division of Public Health is confirming the first death associated with the novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19) for Portage County. The death was of an elderly resident.

“We are saddened by the loss of one of our community members. I along with our public health team and the entire community extend our sympathies to their loved ones,” says Gary Garske, Health Officer and Division of Public Health Manager at Portage County Health and Human Services.

COVID-19 can cause serious health complications and death, especially among older adults and people with chronic health conditions, that’s why it’s important that we all work together to prevent the spread of illness. To date, over 70,000 people in Wisconsin have been diagnosed with COVID-19, and there have been at least 1081 deaths in Wisconsin.

“Community members should follow the Executive Order #1 Masking Mandate by wearing a mask in public and keeping at least six feet apart when you leave your home. As a reminder, people should also limit their travel, keep their circles small, and follow all CDC, DHS, and public health guidance. In doing so, you’re not only helping protect yourself, but also your family, friends, neighbors, and fellow community members,” says Garske.

For the latest information about COVID-19 in Portage County visit:

Portage County's COVID-19 website (<https://www.co.portage.wi.us/department/health-and-human-services/division-of-public-health/covid-19-coronavirus-disease-2019/-fsiteid-1>)

Portage County Division of Public Health Updates and Alerts

(<https://www.co.portage.wi.us/department/health-and-human-services/division-of-public-health/covid-19-coronavirus-disease-2019/division-of-public-health-updates-and-alerts>)

Portage County Division of Public Health Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/PortageCountyDPH/>)

For the additional information and guidance on COVID-19, visit the CDC's website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) or the DHS website (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>).

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