

TOWN OF DURHAM

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

LAURA L. FRANCIS



The Town of Durham Announces First Confirmed Case of COVID-19

Durham, CT (March 26, 2020) – First Selectman Laura Francis announced that the Town received notice today from the Town of Durham Health Department of the first confirmed case of Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") in Durham.

"We knew it was only a matter of time before there was a confirmed case in Durham, given that community spread has already been established in our region," said First Selectman Francis. "We must assume that there are other cases already in our community at this time, and that the number will increase. If someone is sick with a fever and has a cough, you need to assume they have COVID-19. I strongly urge all Durham residents to heed instructions by public health officials to 'flatten the curve' and slow the spread of the disease by practicing social distancing."

Aimee Krauss, Health Director, said that the resident is between the ages of 70 to 80 years old. The resident will remain in isolation and the Health Department will regularly monitor the resident's health and perform contact tracing, in compliance with guidelines issued by the state Department of Public Health. Anyone who has had close contact with the resident will be told to self-quarantine.

"If you have any symptoms of illness, including fever, cough or shortness of breath, you should not leave home except to receive medical care," said Krauss. "Stay in touch with your healthcare provider. Call before you get medical care. Be sure to get care if you feel worse or you think it is an emergency."

There is currently no vaccine or treatment for COVID-19, and so the best way for individuals to protect themselves is to avoid being exposed. This means washing hands frequently, avoiding close contact with other people (within about 6 feet), and not leaving home unless necessary.

Town officials have been coordinating with the State of Connecticut and the Health Department to ensure that a structure is in place to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Residents can also get more information at the Town's website,
<https://www.townofdurhamct.org/coronavirus>