

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Two COVID-19 Cases in Athens-Clarke County

CLARKE COUNTY, GA – The Georgia Department of Public Health has confirmed two positive cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Athens-Clarke County. The Northeast Health District Epidemiology team is working to identify and notify any close contacts who may have been exposed to COVID-19.

The overall risk of COVID-19 to the general public remains low, although elderly people and individuals with chronic medical conditions may have increased risk. The best prevention measures for any respiratory virus are:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If you have recently traveled to areas where there are ongoing outbreaks of COVID-19 and develop fever with cough and shortness of breath within 14 days of your travel, or if you have had contact with someone who is suspected to have COVID-19, stay home and call your health care provider. Be sure to call before going to a doctor's office, emergency room, or urgent care center and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.

For updated information on COVID-19, visit dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.