



St. Thomas Site
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News

March 31, 2020

Southwestern Public Health Confirms First COVID-19 Death

This is the first death related to novel coronavirus in the region served by the health unit

Southwestern Public Health has received notification that the death of an individual at the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital was related to COVID-19. This is the first such death in Elgin County.

The individual, a female in her late 80s, was infected via a close contact.

“We are deeply saddened by this loss of life and offer our condolences to their loved ones,” says Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health. “This death underscores what a serious virus this is. Each of us has a role in preventing more infection and more fatal cases. I’ve seen wonderful collaboration on containing the spread across Oxford, Elgin, and St. Thomas. Now we all need to double-down on our commitment to protect each other – particularly our most vulnerable.”

The health unit reminds the community to protect themselves by staying at least two metres away from others when out doing essential tasks, staying home when sick, disinfecting high touch surfaces often and practicing diligent handwashing. Individuals who are 70+ are recommended to self-isolate entirely – staying in their own homes and having others buy their groceries, medications and essential supplies.

For more information visit www.swpublichealth.ca, follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter or call the COVID-19 hotline at 1-866-922-0096 x 9 with questions.

Social media and online content

- Website: www.swpublichealth.ca/content/community-update-novel-coronavirus-covid-19
- Facebook: [Southwestern Public Health](#)
- Twitter: [@SW_PublicHealth](#)
- Instagram: [@swpublichealth](#)

About Southwestern Public Health

Southwestern Public Health works with its partners to ensure the health of the whole community. Our programs respond to public health emergencies; promote healthy lifestyles; help prevent injuries, illness and disease in the community; and promote positive change and social conditions that improve health. Southwestern Public Health delivers mandated programs under the Ontario Public Health Standards and is regulated by the Ontario Health Promotion and Protection Act. The health unit maintains primary locations in Woodstock and St. Thomas. For more information, visit www.swpublichealth.ca.

Contacts

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