

### **Increased Testing. Identifying Cases and Tracing Contacts.**

As access to testing expands, confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Kanabec County will increase. Kanabec County Community Health, in cooperation with Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), is preparing to conduct the case and contact investigations of Kanabec County residents confirmed to have COVID-19.

### **Case and contact investigation and its importance.**

People in close contact with someone who is infected with a virus, such as COVID-19, are at higher risk of becoming infected themselves, and of potentially further infecting others. Implementing case and contact investigations can help limit the spread of infection to others in our community. In addition to limiting transmission, case and contact investigation helps public health identify clusters of outbreaks and will help further the understanding of the COVID-19 virus.

### **How it works.**

An individual identified as having a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 will receive a phone call from one of our public health staff. During the interview, the public health staff will ask where they spend their time and who they have had close contact with. Those identified will be contacted by phone for symptomatic monitoring, and suggested MDH guidelines for self-quarantine and isolation.

As these case and contact investigations begin it is especially important that those contacted answer/accept phone calls or return messages left by the public health staff. As our public health staff increases their capacity to conduct all case investigations in Kanabec County, please note that MDH will also conduct some of the investigations.

Kanabec County Community Health staff will NOT be asking for your social security number, insurance information, credit card number, or other types of payments. Confidentiality is extremely important to our work; be assured that information gathered is confidential and the investigator must strictly follow HIPAA guidelines when performing case and contact investigations.

The first laboratory confirmed case in Kanabec County occurred on May 1, 2020. As of May 11, 2020, Kanabec County has 10 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19. As the state begins to loosen some of the stay at home order restrictions, please remember that there will continue to be an increase in case and unfortunately more deaths. Please continue to take care of yourself and loved ones.

For the latest Kanabec County specific information about COVID-19, visit [https://www.kanabecounty.org/departments/coronavirus\\_resources.php](https://www.kanabecounty.org/departments/coronavirus_resources.php) or follow Kanabec County Community Health on Facebook: @KanabecCountyCommunityHealth