

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ANGELA D. ALSOBROOKS**

PRESS RELEASE

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For More Information:

Gina Ford
Communications Director
Office of the County Executive
Prince George's County
w. 301.952.4670
c. 202.744.3308
erford@co.pg.md.us

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY CONFIRMS ITS FIRST CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19) CASES; OUTLINES ACTIONS THE GOVERNMENT HAS
ALREADY TAKEN TO PREPARE**

LARGO, MD – Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced today that the County confirmed its first three positive cases of novel coronavirus, COVID-19. One case confirmed yesterday evening (March 9) and two were confirmed this morning. County Executive Alsobrooks outlined the actions the County Government has taken to prepare for this situation.

“Our County Government has been consistently sharing information with the community and taking the necessary actions to prepare for this situation,” said Alsobrooks. “We urge residents to remain calm and to stay informed, as Prince George's County is prepared and well-equipped to handle this.”

The first case is a patient who contracted the virus while traveling to Boston, and that resident is at home and in good condition. The resident is in her 50s, has had no contact with children, does not have children in the school system, and her family members that live with her are self-quarantined at home and in good condition as well.

The second and third cases are a couple who recently returned from an international cruise. The couple is self-quarantined at home and in good condition. A contact tracing investigation is underway in all of these cases to determine exposure within the County, and we are working with the State of Maryland and our Health Department to take the appropriate precautions.

“This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available,” said Dr. Ernest Carter, Prince George's County Health Officer. “We are working to ensure Prince George's County residents are informed and conducting important, everyday actions to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses.”

The County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Joint Information Center (JIC) have been escalated to a partial activation level to respond to the evolving situation, which allows the County to continue taking the appropriate steps to keep Prince Georgians safe and healthy. The EOC and JIC have been activated at an enhanced level since March 4, 2020, prior to any of the first confirmed cases in the State of Maryland.

County agencies have taken a number of steps to prepare for the coronavirus and prevent the spread of germs prior to confirmation of this first case. The Health Department continues to encourage the public to practice prevention measures similar to that of cold and flu season. We encourage residents to wash your hands frequently with soap and water, cover coughs and sneezes with your arm or sleeve, and stay home when you are sick. If you feel you are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus like fever, cough and shortness of breath, contact a health care provider to discuss symptoms before going.

Information and updates about COVID-19, in addition to preparation and actions taken by the Prince George's County Government, are available at health.mypgc.us/coronavirus. Residents can also call the County's Health Department hotline with questions or concerns at 301-883-6627.

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