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Health Department Reports Increase in COVID-19 Cases and Positivity Rate

Elkton, MD – The Cecil County Health Department today reported a significant increase in COVID-19 cases and the testing positivity rate in the county. Since the beginning of September, 169 new cases have been reported in Cecil County, exceeding the 158 cases reported during the entire month of August. The 7-day positivity rate for COVID-19 testing has increased from 2.0% on August 31st to 5.3% as of September 17th, which is above the 5.0% benchmark recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) for reopening. The 7-day case rate for Cecil County is currently 12.1 per 100,000 population and has been steadily increasing since late August. To date, 16.3% percent of Cecil County residents have been tested and 964 residents have tested positive for COVID-19. There have been 42 COVID-19-related deaths among Cecil County residents since the pandemic began.

“These latest numbers suggest that COVID-19 is spreading rapidly in the community. Please continue to do what is needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect friends and family – wear a mask whenever you leave the house, practice social distancing, and avoid large gatherings. These steps are critically important,” says Lauren Levy, Health Officer for Cecil County.

In addition to face coverings and social distancing, individuals should continue to wash their hands frequently, avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, and self-isolate if sick. It is important if someone thinks they could be positive for COVID-19 to get tested and to stay at home while waiting for test results. If a person tests positive for COVID-19, they will receive a call from a contact tracer to discuss how to protect themselves and others, to find out where they have been and who they have been in contact with. Older adults and people who have underlying health conditions are at increased risk for serious illness from COVID-19, so it is important that they stay at home as much as possible and to call their providers immediately if they have even mild symptoms.

For additional information on COVID-19, including upcoming test dates, visit the Cecil County Health Department’s web page at cecilcountyhealth.org/coronavirus or call the Health Department’s COVID-19 call center at 410-996-1005 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with any questions.

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The mission of the Cecil County Health Department is to work together to promote, protect, and advance the health and wellness of the community.