PRESS RELEASE

Date: March 25, 2020
Phone: 203-272-2761
Website: www.chesprocott.org

The Chesprocott Health District (CHD) continues to work closely with our partners at the State Department of Public Health (DPH), local hospitals, first responders, town officials and with outpatient healthcare providers to obtain information related to positive cases and persons under investigation (PUI) who are residents in our community. A PUI is any person who is currently under investigation for having the virus that causes COVID-19, or who was under investigation but tested negative for the virus.

It is important to understand the process of how positive COVID-19 cases are reported to our community. Effective March 18, 2020, DPH Commissioner Coleman-Mitchell amended the List of Reportable Diseases, Emergency Illnesses and Health Conditions and List of Reportable Laboratory Findings by adding “COVID-19” and “SARS-CoV-2” to such lists. The amendment also requires laboratories to notify DPH with positive and negative laboratory findings for SARS-CoV-2. This means that when DPH receives these reports, they are entered into a HIPAA compliant and secure online electronic disease surveillance system that is accessible by local health departments.

However, in some cases, a hospital or healthcare provider may learn of a laboratory confirmed case and notify the local health department before the report is entered into the DPH online surveillance system. Therefore, causing minor discrepancies in number of cases for our communities. CHD is closely monitoring the electronic disease surveillance system, working with key community leaders and contacting sick patients. When a resident is suspected to have COVID-19 or has a positive test result, they will remain in quarantine at their homes. Individuals who reside in the same household as a laboratory confirmed positive case will also be required to self-quarantine at their home. Health department staff will work with the patients to investigate and determine if additional individuals need to be notified or require 14-day self-monitoring periods at home. If an individual is inpatient or in a healthcare facility, that facility will lead the investigation.

Chesprocott Health District will provide updates on the data available for cases in our district via the media. If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice. Please do not show up without calling first. Community spread/transmission is now occurring in our community. People have been infected with the virus, including some who are
not sure how or where they became infected. Please practice social distancing and stay home as much as possible.

For general questions about COVID-19, please call 2-1-1. This hotline is accessible 24 hours a day and in multiple languages.

Additional online, credible resources:
- www.ct.gov/coronavirus