FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: First Hospitalization of a Lassen County Resident who has tested positive for COVID-19

The Lassen County Public Health Department (LCPH) has received confirmation of the first Lassen County resident to be hospitalized for COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). This individual was tested and confirmed to be positive by local healthcare providers. The patient was transported to an out of state medical facility and is in critical condition. No further details about the patient will be shared to protect patient privacy. LCPH is monitoring the situation closely and will provide updates when appropriate.

The Public Health Department and the Incident Command for the Lassen County COVID-19 response would like to remind the public of the following simple steps which can reduce or prevent the spread of any respiratory illness, including COVID-19:

- Wash your hands with liquid soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or if you do not have soap you can use alcohol-based sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol;
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing, do not use your hands;
- Stay home if you are feeling sick;
- Regularly clean surfaces touched frequently by people;
- Practice social distancing recommendations by the CDC, such as reducing your interactions in large groups or crowds and unnecessary trips into the public;
- Symptoms of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) range from mild symptoms to severe illness and they may appear 2-14 days after exposure. Symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sudden loss of taste or smell. Residents 65 years or older and individuals with underlying medical conditions are particularly vulnerable to contracting the virus.

If you feel like you or someone you care for is exhibiting symptoms, please call the Call Center at Public Health 530-251-8100.