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## NEWS RELEASE

**For immediate release** – Friday, March 20, 2020

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### **VDH Confirms First COVID-19 Case in Rockbridge Area**

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has confirmed the first case of COVID-19 in the Rockbridge area. Local officials have no additional information to provide at this time but are working to gain more information from the VDH and health care providers.

The confirmation of this case coming from the Rockbridge area does not change any of the guidance issued from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or VDH. In fact, officials highly encourage citizens, businesses, and visitors to continue social distancing and enhanced hygiene efforts.

Local governments continue to take proactive steps to help combat the spread of the virus. A local state of emergency was jointly declared on March 17<sup>th</sup> by Rockbridge County and the Cities of Lexington and Buena Vista. In addition to the closure of public schools under order of the Governor, Rockbridge County offices and the Department of Social Services closed to the public on Thursday. City of

Lexington offices, as well as the towns of Glasgow and Goshen offices will be closed to the public starting close-of business today (Friday). Some Buena Vista governmental offices will remain open, but only for essential business. Libraries closed to the public earlier this week. Fire and Rescue responders continue to operate under revised protocols in an effort to protect themselves and others.

In a joint statement, Rockbridge County Administrator Spencer Suter, Lexington City Manager Jim Halasz and Buena Vista Interim City Manager Jay Scudder said, “We continue to work together as a region to take steps to mitigate the evolving public health threat. We urge everyone to follow guidance from the CDC and the VDH. This is a highly communicable disease, which can be transmitted from seemingly healthy individuals, who don’t even know they are infected. Please take this challenge very seriously. Everyone must remain vigilant in helping to protect ourselves, our families, friends and neighbors.”

For additional information on the COVID-19 public health threat, and ways to help stop its spread, please visit the VHD and CDC websites.

[Virginia Department of Health Coronavirus Disease 2019 website](#)

[CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 website](#)

[CDC Situation Summary](#)

[CDC Prevention and Treatment](#)

[CDC Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)

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