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Dear Martin County Residents,

We need your help in suppressing the coronavirus. There is no longer any debate: All medical experts agree that the spread of COVID-19 has the potential to overwhelm the U.S. health care system by early summer.

The number of positive COVID-19 cases in Martin County continue to rise at a concerning rate. As of today, March 23, there are 8 confirmed cases with many other patients awaiting results. Despite having a significantly lower population than both Blue Earth and Nicollet counties, Martin County has the same number of cases as both counties combined (Blue Earth: 5 cases; and Nicollet: 3 cases). In fact, Martin County has the highest number of positive COVID-19 cases in the nine-county region. Furthermore, 7 out of the 8 cases in Martin County have been acquired through community transmission, which means individuals acquired the virus from other community members — and not due to travel outside of the region or state.

The most powerful tool we have to change this alarming trend is social distancing. Yet, far too many people are falling short of what's needed, including the residents of Martin County.

We are asking all of you to self-quarantine if you have any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough or shortness of breath) or have been exposed to the virus in any way. For everyone else, please distance yourself from others in the following ways:

- Avoid public places; only go out to get essentials. (Go to the grocery store once a week, etc.)
- Avoid large family or public gatherings.
- Stay 6 feet from anyone with whom you do not live.

We understand that making these temporary sacrifices is difficult. But doing so can mean the difference between life and death for the people of our community — particularly those at highest risk.

We encourage you to go to the Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 website for the most accurate information about the disease. Locally, you can follow the Community Health and Human Services of Faribault & Martin Counties Facebook page for daily updates and information.

For information on what to do if you develop symptoms of COVID-19, please visit [mayoclinichealthsystem.org/covid19](https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/covid19) or call your health care provider.



Thank you for your sacrifices and for keeping the residents of Martin County safe!

Abigail Nesbit, Emergency Management
Director

Chera Sevcik, Community Health Services
Executive Director

Marie Morris, M.D., Mayo Clinic Health
System in Fairmont Medical Director

Amy Long, Mayo Clinic Health System in
Fairmont Administrator

Terry Viesselman, Martin County Attorney

Steven Flohrs, Martin County Commissioner
Chairperson

Jeff Markquart, Martin County Sheriff

Mike Hunter, Fairmont Police Chief

Dan Nelson, Dunnell Mayor

Darren Maday, Granada Mayor

Tom Wakey, Northrop Mayor

Troy Schmitke, Trimont Mayor

Lynn Brownlee, Truman Mayor

Deb Foster, Fairmont Mayor

Fred Schmitke, Ceylon Mayor

Charles Waterbury, Ormsby Mayor

John Newville, Welcome Mayor

Jeff Ross, Sherburn Mayor