



# Kankakee County Board

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Kankakee County Announces First Case of COVID-19, Declares State of Emergency**

County Board Chairman, Andrew Wheeler, announced today the first case of COVID-19 in Kankakee County. Effective immediately, the Kankakee County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated. The County is coordinating all partner communications and the streamlined communications will be housed on the web and Facebook pages of the Kankakee County Health Department.

As a result of this first case, Kankakee County is declaring a State of Emergency that a local disaster exists in Kankakee County due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. This is a necessary step to assist in accessing additional resources from the Federal and State government.

Wheeler commented, "We want the citizens of Kankakee County to be assured that the County, along with all local health care providers, is committed to addressing this outbreak with all available resources. We encourage our citizens to assist us in containing the impact of the illness by following the Center for Disease Controls (CDC) guidelines as follows:

1. **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
2. **Stay home** when you are sick or if you are in a high-risk group for a serious illness.
3. **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper arm.
4. **Clean your hands.**
5. **Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.**

I have every confidence that we, as a community, can come together at this difficult time, meet this challenge with a united front, and emerge as a stronger community. The key is to keep calm, minimize your risk and that of those which are the most at-risk populations."