

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Stratford Health Department Announces Laboratory Tests Determine Presumptive  
COVID-19 Case is Negative**

**Stratford, Connecticut (March 19, 2020)** – The potential second presumptive case of COVID-19 in a Stratford High School student is reported to be negative based on laboratory tests. The Stratford Health Department is relieved for the student and their family. Despite this good news, we would like to stress that this should not provide residents with a false sense of security. Community transmission of COVID-19 is still occurring and everyone is at risk of contracting this virus regardless of known exposure. While self-quarantine is relaxed for students and staff members of the Stratford High School community, it does not mean that they should let their guard down.

“Community transmission of COVID-19 is a reality for us here in Stratford. We are urging residents to continue to do their part to protect themselves, their family, and community from getting and spreading the illness,” says Andrea Boissevain, Director of Health for the Town of Stratford. “That means abiding by local, state, and federal recommendations of social distancing and staying at home if you’ve been exposed to someone has been diagnosed or is suspected of having COVID-19, but also making a daily commitment to monitor for signs of illness and stay away from one another as much as possible to help ‘flatten the curve’ and slow the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect our elderly, medically vulnerable, and healthcare system.”

While COVID-19 has been ruled out in this case, the Stratford Health Department is advising ALL residents, regardless of school district, to be vigilant and self-aware of any symptoms you or your household members may have. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Continue to practice social distancing and implementing prevention strategies such as hand washing, disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, and covering up when you cough or sneeze.

For more information visit: [www.townofstratford.com/coronavirus](http://www.townofstratford.com/coronavirus) . If you have further questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the Stratford Health Department at 203-385-4090 or email [health@townofstratford.com](mailto:health@townofstratford.com) .

**General questions about the virus can also be directed to Connecticut hotlines:**

**Yale Health COVID**