



JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

NEWS

FOR RELEASE: Immediately (12/15/20)

For more information contact: 618-684-3143

ONE DEATH & TWENTY-FIVE NEW COVID-19 CASES IN JACKSON COUNTY

Jackson County Health Department sadly announces the death of a male in his nineties related to COVID-19. The thoughts of public health staff are with his loved ones.

JCHD was notified in the past 24 hours of 25 Jackson County residents having contracted COVID-19. The individuals are as follows:

- Female – two under ten, one in her thirties, one in her fifties, six in their sixties, and one in her seventies;
- Male – two in their twenties, six in their forties, two in their fifties, three in their sixties, and one in his nineties.

386 active cases are currently being managed. To date, there have been 3,281 cases in the county, including 49 related deaths. Thirty-five individuals were released from isolation, in accordance with CDC guidelines, bringing the total released to 2,846 individuals.

After much consideration, JCHD has chosen to adopt one of the shortened quarantine options now available to public health agencies. Effective immediately, Jackson County residents who have been exposed to someone positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 10 days, down from the prior 14-day requirement. Public health staff will work with those who experience symptoms during quarantine to determine an appropriate release date. Individuals released from quarantine after 10 days will still be required to monitor themselves for symptoms through day 14 and isolate themselves if they become symptomatic. They will also be required to wear a mask around others, practice social distancing, and other precautions. Based upon this change, JCHD expects overall quarantine compliance to increase, thus reducing potential exposures. Reduced quarantine does not apply to those in congregate living settings.

JCHD will not be adopting the other option available from CDC for reducing quarantine times, which is release after 7 days with a negative test result. CDC data suggests a higher probability of releasing someone who could still develop COVID-19 with this option. In addition, the local testing infrastructure would struggle to meet the increased demand for testing resulting from such a move.

If you have a fever, cough, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, nausea, diarrhea, or other symptoms, call your health care provider for further guidance. Two providers are conducting COVID-19 testing in Jackson County: Call either Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) at 1-844-988-7800; or Shawnee Health Service at 618-519-9200.

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