



JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

NEWS

FOR RELEASE: Immediately (12/7/20)

For more information contact: 618-684-3143

TWO DEATHS & THIRTY-FIVE NEW COVID-19 CASES IN JACKSON COUNTY

Jackson County Health Department sadly reports the deaths of two individuals related to COVID-19. One individual is a male in his seventies. The other is a female in her eighties. Public health staff express our condolences to their loved ones.

JCHD was notified in the past 24 hours of 35 Jackson County residents having contracted COVID-19. The individuals are as follows:

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

445 active cases are currently being managed. To date, there have been 3,019 cases in the county, including 39 related deaths. Twenty-two individuals were released from isolation, in accordance with CDC guidelines, bringing the total released to 2,535 individuals.

CDC continues to recommend a 14 day quarantine, despite some contrary reporting. CDC is now offering local health departments the option to shorten quarantines, based upon local circumstances. Using percentages from CDC, if JCHD had shortened quarantines to 7 days, in November alone we would have released 50-130 people from quarantine who were potentially infectious. JCHD will continue to evaluate the new options, and awaits further guidance from the Illinois Dept. of Public Health. Currently JCHD plans to continue to follow the CDC recommendation of a 14 day quarantine period to protect the health of our community.

To protect themselves and their families, residents of Jackson County should immediately and consistently take the following actions:

- 1) Stay home as much as possible. Only go out for work or essential items, if possible.
- 2) Avoid parties and gatherings of all sizes - crowds are an ideal environment for spreading COVID-19.
- 3) Keep at least 6ft of space between yourself and others as much as possible.
- 4) Wear a face mask around others. Research shows cloth masks protect the wearer, as well as others.
- 5) Stay home if you are sick, even if you only have mild symptoms. Get tested. Self-isolate while awaiting test results. Stay home when placed on isolation or quarantine.
- 6) Workplaces should follow all guidance published by IDPH and DCEO, as well as the Restore Illinois Resurgence Mitigations.
- 7) Return calls to public health officials and follow their instructions.

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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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