



JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

NEWS

FOR RELEASE: Immediately (4/19/20)

For more information contact:

618/684-3143

ONE DEATH AND ONE NEW COVID-19 POSITIVE IN JACKSON COUNTY

Jackson County Health Department mournfully announces the death of a male in his eighties who was previously confirmed to have COVID-19. In addition, the health department was notified of one new case, a female in her twenties, who acquired the disease through local contact with a known case. She has been isolated.

To date, there have been 43 total laboratory confirmed positives of COVID-19 in Jackson County, including five deaths. Twenty of the positive individuals have been released from isolation, in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Public health officials are investigating cases, placing positive individuals on isolation and finding out who they may have encountered before their diagnosis. Other individuals may be placed on home quarantine if they are determined to have had significant exposure. Such individuals may not be symptomatic, but are quarantined for a period of time which allows symptoms to develop and pass, without posing risk to others. If you are contacted by public health officials, please respond promptly.

People can reduce the likelihood of contracting the disease by adhering to the Governor's stay at home order, washing hands frequently, disinfecting commonly touched surfaces, and maintaining space from others when in public.

COVID-19 shares many symptoms with more common respiratory diseases. If you have a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, call your health care provider for further guidance. In addition, Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) has established a 24-hour COVID-19 hotline at 1-844-988-7800. Clinicians there will answer questions, assess each caller and advise on next steps for evaluation or potential testing.

The Illinois Department of Human Services has a free emotional-support text line for people experiencing stress or despair related to this pandemic. To speak anonymously to a health care specialist, text "talk" to 552-020 and a counselor from a local community mental health center will call you within 24 hours. For a Spanish option, text "hablar" instead. People can also receive other helpful resources by texting the number with keywords such as "unemployment," "food" and "shelter."

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