



JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health
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NEWS

FOR RELEASE: Immediately (4/30/20)

For more information contact:

618/684-3143

TWO DEATHS AND 14 NEW COVID-19 POSITIVES IN JACKSON COUNTY

Jackson County Health Department mournfully announces the passing of two individuals who were previously confirmed to have COVID-19. One was a male in his eighties, the other a female in her eighties. Nine deaths to date are known to be related to this disease in Jackson County residents.

The Health Department was also notified in the past 24 hours of 14 individuals confirmed to have COVID-19. These individuals include:

- Females – One pre-teen/teen, two in their twenties, two in their thirties, two in their forties, and two in their fifties;
- Males – One infant, two in their thirties, one in his forties, and one in his sixties.

All of these individuals are believed to have acquired the disease through either local contact with known cases, or through transmission in the community. They are all being placed in isolation. Most Jackson County residents who have tested positive within the past week are tied to outbreaks at workplaces outside of Jackson County.

To date, there have been 112 laboratory confirmed cases in Jackson County. Thirty-eight 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 COVID-19 hotline at 1-844-988-7800, which is open 8am – 8pm. Clinicians there will answer questions, assess each caller and advise on next steps for evaluation or potential testing.

The Illinois Department of Public Health website lists the number of cases by zip code, when any one zip code has greater than five cases. Data on the site, www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid19-statistics, runs a few days behind.

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