



JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

NEWS

FOR RELEASE: Immediately (5/2/20)

For more information contact:

618/684-3143

FIFTEEN NEW COVID-19 POSITIVES IN JACKSON COUNTY

Jackson County Health Department was notified in the past 24 hours of fifteen Jackson County residents confirmed to have contracted COVID-19. These individuals include:

- Females – Two pre-teen/teen, two in their twenties, three in their thirties, one in her fifties, and one in her sixties;
- Males – Two in their twenties, three in their thirties, and one in his fifties.

All of these individuals are believed to have acquired the disease through either local contact with known cases, or through transmission in the community. All but one have been placed in isolation. The other is a Jackson County resident who tested positive out of state in early April, but Jackson County was not notified at the time. This individual remains out of state and is considered recovered. Most Jackson County residents who have tested positive within the past ten days are tied to outbreaks at workplaces outside of Jackson County.

To date, there have been 135 laboratory confirmed cases in Jackson County. Forty-five 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, is a few days behind.

###