



JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health
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NEWS

FOR RELEASE: Immediately (7/20/20)

For more information contact:

618/684-3143

TWENTY-THREE NEW COVID-19 CASES REPORTED IN JACKSON COUNTY

Jackson County Health Department was notified in the past 24 hours of 23 Jackson County residents confirmed to have contracted COVID-19. The individuals are as follows:

- Female – two teens, eleven in their twenties, and two in their fifties;
- Male – five in their twenties, one in his thirties, one in his fifties, and one in his sixties.

They acquired the disease either through contact with known cases or through transmission in the community (i.e., unable to trace back to a known source). They are being placed in isolation.

Today's new cases are the most recorded in a single day in Jackson County since the start of the pandemic. Over 40% of the new confirmed cases in Jackson County during July have been from individuals in their late teens and twenties. According to Bart Hagston, Administrator, "This is a particularly challenging demographic to work with on COVID-19, as they are generally social in nature, and typically have fewer symptoms and less complications when they contract the disease. However, their exposure helps drive further transmission in the community, potentially bringing the disease to others who experience poor health outcomes, including elderly individuals and those with chronic health conditions." Those in their teens and twenties are particularly encouraged to follow the guidance from public health: 1) Wear a mask out in public; 2) Maintain social distance from others as much as possible; 3) Avoid social gatherings, especially indoors; 4) Wash hands frequently; and 5) Work with health department officials as they conduct contact tracing following positive cases.

To date, there have been 425 confirmed cases in the county, including 19 related deaths. 328 individuals have been released from isolation in accordance with CDC guidelines. Seventy-eight active cases are currently being managed. Please note, the case numbers reflected on the Illinois Department of Public Health website may not always align with these figures, as cases are being opened and closed on an almost daily basis.

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