



# JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## NEWS

**FOR RELEASE: Immediately (5/24/20)**

**For more information contact:**

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### FIFTEEN ADDITIONAL COVID-19 POSITIVES IN JACKSON COUNTY

Jackson County Health Department was notified in the past 24 hours of 15 Jackson County residents confirmed to have contracted COVID-19. The individuals are as follows:

- Female – one preteen/teen, two in their twenties, one in her thirties, one in her forties, and two in their sixties;
- Male – one preteen/teen, one in his thirties, two in their fifties, three in their sixties, and one in his seventies.

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

To date, there have been 225 laboratory confirmed cases in Jackson County, including ten deaths related to the disease. Three additional individuals have been released from isolation, in accordance with CDC guidelines, bringing the total released to 171 persons. Forty-four active cases are currently being managed.

Today the State released the much-anticipated “*Phase 3 Guidelines for Reopening Business and Returning People to Work Safely*” at [www2.illinois.gov/dceo](http://www2.illinois.gov/dceo). There are common guidelines listed for all types of businesses, plus industry specific guidance. The Southern Illinois Region, specified in the Restore Illinois plan, is on-track to move to Phase 3 on May 29.

However, Bart Hagston, Administrator at Jackson County Health Department, cautions that “Jackson County has seen 30 new confirmed cases over the past three days alone. I know people are anxious to return to work and to get out of the house, and we want those things for people too. They should not let their guard down completely though; continuing to practice social distancing, wearing facemasks in public, and all of the other oft-mentioned guidance remains applicable. Patrons and businesses following the Phase 3 guidance released by the State is another way to ensure we move the economy forward, without setting public health backward.”

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