



## Johnson County Public Health Johnson County Emergency Management



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April 28, 2020

For immediate release

### **Johnson County, Iowa, COVID-19 update for April 28, 2020**

Johnson County Public Health (JCPH) continues to work with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and a number of other local agencies to contain the spread of COVID-19 in our community. As of today, Tuesday, April 28, 2020, there are 448 confirmed positive cases in Johnson County. Two hundred and thirty-two have recovered from COVID-19, are no longer considered infectious, and are now under the same recommendations as the general public. Currently, there is a total of 6,376 confirmed positive cases in Iowa. The number of positive cases will continue to grow as Test Iowa sites open and additional surveillance testing of large businesses and nursing home staff continues.

### **Governor Reynolds' proclamation from Monday, April 27**

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds signed a proclamation Monday, April 27, 2020, allowing the reopening of some business types and lifting gathering requirements for certain counties beginning Friday, May 1, 2020. The proclamation applies to 77 counties in Iowa where COVID-19 activity remains lowest.

The new guidelines do not apply to organizations in Johnson County due to ongoing COVID-19 activity.

While Johnson County is not included in the partial re-opening occurring later this week, we know that residents have friends and family in other counties that will be loosening measures. The guidance for Johnson County is still the same as it was before. It is important to remember that everyone should continue to practice social distancing and other public health recommendations to slow the spread of the virus. You can do your part by staying home as much as possible, avoiding groups of people, only going out for essentials like groceries and medical care, and staying home if you're sick. If you can't maintain social distancing, wear a cloth mask to protect others.

COVID-19 is a part of our lives and will continue to be a part of our lives. Until we have a vaccine, balancing social distancing and hygiene are our best tools to continue fighting this virus.

### **Spiritual and religious gatherings**

While the Governor eased restrictions beginning Friday, May 1, 2020, across the entire state for spiritual or religious gatherings, including regular worship, staying home is still the best way to limit your exposure to COVID-19, as well as creating a potential risk for others.

Those who choose to hold or attend services are taking on a higher level of risk and putting others at greater risk. For those who proceed with holding or attending spiritual or religious gatherings, it is important to take the same precautions as going to the grocery store or doctor for essential needs. Maintain social/physical distancing of at least six feet from others, practice good handwashing, avoid touching your face, and wear a face covering. These are all protective actions that will lessen the risk of getting COVID-19, however, staying home is still the most effective way to avoid this illness.

Older adults or those with underlying health conditions, are still at greater risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19 and should stay home. Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell) should stay home. Leaders and attendees bear the responsibility of self-screening and staying home, even if mildly ill.

Read the full proclamation here: <https://governor.iowa.gov/press-release/gov-reynolds-signs-new-proclamation-continuing-the-state-public-health-emergency-0>

Thank you to all Johnson County residents who are doing your best to protect our most vulnerable friends, family and neighbors from this virus.

Information about COVID-19 in Johnson County is available at [www.johnson-county.com/coronavirus](http://www.johnson-county.com/coronavirus).

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