

Contact: Michelle Clausen Rosendahl
Siouxland District Health Department
1014 Nebraska St, Sioux City, IA 51105
Phone: 712-279-6119 | Fax: 712-279-2601
mclausen@siouxlanddistricthealth.org

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Press Release

COVID-19 Testing in Woodbury County

Woodbury County currently has had 4 confirmed cases of COVID-19. One of the cases is recovering at home, and three of the cases have recovered. As of Tuesday morning, March 31, the reported data indicates that 143 tests have been conducted on Woodbury County residents. This number includes only tests that are complete and have been reported to us with a positive or negative result. It does not include any pending tests. Siouxland District Health Department will start including some of this data on our website at <http://www.siouxlanddistricthealth.org/home.html>.

Testing for COVID-19 is done at the state public health laboratory, and also can be done at many private laboratories. When the private laboratories began doing the testing, they were originally only required to report positive test results to public health. Because of this, there was no way to track the total number of tests that had been completed, and accurate numbers were not available. Earlier this month, [Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds mandated that both positive and negative results were reportable to public health](#). Since that time, the private labs have slowly begun reporting the negative results in addition to the positive cases.

As the availability of testing increases, it is expected that the number of confirmed cases identified will also increase. Approximately 80 percent of Iowans infected with COVID-19 will experience only mild to moderate illness. Most mildly ill Iowans may not need to go to their healthcare provider or be tested to confirm that they have COVID-19. If you believe you have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, you should call a health care provider. It is best to call before going to a clinic or the emergency room, which will allow healthcare providers to ask some questions in advance so that they can take any necessary steps to keep other people from potentially getting exposed. Your healthcare provider will determine if you need to be seen and will request testing if they determine it is medically necessary.

Although the testing is much more widely available, medical providers continue to prioritize which patients need to be seen and tested. In addition to the fact that most cases are mild, they are also trying to conserve needed supplies including personal protective equipment that is essential when treating patients who are ill, and trying to keep ill people isolated so that they do not infect others when leaving their house for a medical appointment if it may not be necessary.

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About Siouxland District Health Department

Siouxland District Health Department, the public health agency for Woodbury County, is creating "A healthy community for all" by "leading a collaborative effort to build a healthier community through improved access to health services, education and disease prevention." They provide public health nursing, nutrition, laboratory, health planning and environmental services. For more information on Siouxland District Health Department visit www.siouxlanddistricthealth.org.

Regardless of whether they have been confirmed to have COVID-19 or not, sick Iowans must stay home and isolate themselves from others in their house until:

- You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) **AND**
- Other symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath have improved **AND**
- At least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

In addition, family members or other close contacts of either a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 should stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days.

Follow SDHD on Facebook and Twitter for updated information. For further information about novel coronavirus and statewide case counts, visit <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus>. In addition, a public hotline has been established for Iowans with questions about COVID-19. The line is available 24/7 by calling 2-1-1.

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