



Johnson County Public Health Johnson County Emergency Management



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For immediate release

Johnson County, Iowa, COVID-19 update for April 7, 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 7, 2020, there are 134 confirmed positive cases in Johnson County. Fifty-five 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 1,048 confirmed positive cases in Iowa. There have been a total of 11,670 negative tests to date, which includes testing reported by the State Hygienic Lab and other labs. A status report of monitoring and testing of COVID-19 in Iowa is provided by IDPH and can be found [here](#). 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 or 1-800-244-7431.

CDC recommendation on cloth face coverings

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to study COVID-19. From recent studies, it is now known that some individuals who are asymptomatic—those who lack symptoms—and individuals who are pre-symptomatic—those who eventually develop symptoms—can transmit the virus to others. This means the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—less than six feet away from each other—even if those people are not showing symptoms.

In light of this new evidence, the CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public where social distancing measures can be difficult to maintain, like grocery stores and pharmacies. However, physically distancing yourself six feet away from others when you must be in public, and hand washing, are still the most important things you can do to slow the spread of COVID-19. Wearing a face covering does not mean you are protected from COVID-19. It means you may be protecting others if you have it and don't know it.

Cloth face coverings made from household items or materials, like scarves and bandanas, can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure. It is not necessary for the general public to use surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are needed for healthcare workers and medical first responders.

Social distancing and social responsibility

Social and physical distancing can feel isolating and stressful but we all need to do our part. Staying home and not having visitors is the safest for everyone. The importance of staying home and away from others can be

difficult to explain to children, especially when they see other children who live in different households playing together. If you see those around you not practicing social distancing, say something. Educate others by reaching out to friends, family and neighbors to explain social distancing and why it is important. Explain to them about how you are helping slow the spread. Sometimes these conversations can be difficult, but they could help us get through this more quickly.

We all have a role to play

Remember, we all have a role to play to flatten the curve and stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

- Stay home as much as possible.
- Do not invite others – adults or children – into your home under any circumstances.
- Run essential errands only.
- Practice social distancing – stay at least six feet away from others.
- Enjoy outdoor activities responsibly, and only with those who live in your home.
- Work from home if you can.
- Isolate yourself in your home if you are sick, even if you are not experiencing typical COVID-19 symptoms.

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.

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