



MONITEAU COUNTY HEALTH CENTER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 22nd, 2020, 5:00 pm

Moniteau County response to outbreak at food processing plant

MONITEAU COUNTY, MO – The Moniteau County Health Center currently reports COVID-19 status: 33 confirmed cases (4 of these have recovered) and 21 probable cases (which have not been tested but who came into contact with a positive case and are now symptomatic). One county resident is hospitalized. No additional personal information will be released regarding these individual's identity.

The recent "spike" in cases is largely due to an outbreak at a food processing plant in Moniteau County. The facility has more than 20 employees who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Through the investigation process, close contacts/potential exposures are identified, if they are symptomatic, we recommend testing and to contact their health care provider. A potential exposure means being a household contact or having close contact within 6 feet of an individual with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. The timeframe for having contact with an individual includes the period of time of 48 hours before the individual became symptomatic.

Confirmed and probable cases receive verbal and written instructions on isolating at home. Their identified contacts receive verbal and written instructions on how to quarantine at home. Quarantine contacts, which are not symptomatic, are allowed to leave their home with a mask to return to work (critical infrastructure workers) or if they need to pick up essentials such as food, medicine, or going to the doctor.

The Moniteau County Health Center continues to notify individuals and we are working to insure they are following DHSS and CDC guidelines in regards to isolation or quarantine.

It is important that each and every one of us continue to practice basic preventative measures to help decrease the spread. These measures, as outlined by the CDC, include: wearing a cloth mask when in public, social distancing (6 feet apart), avoiding contact with people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, proper hand-washing, cleaning frequently used surfaces, and staying home when sick. These measures are VERY IMPORTANT to prevent the spread of this virus. If you are in need of a cloth mask,

you can request one through this link, <https://moniteau covid19.com/community-masks>. You will be notified when your mask is available for pick up, or if you need it delivered, please indicate that on the online form.

The Moniteau County Health Center is taking necessary precautions to keep our patients and community safe and will continue to diligently monitor the COVID-19 situation and follow CDC guidelines to help protect the public health and limit spread of this infection.

We highly encourage, if you suspect that you have COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, call your healthcare provider before seeking care.

We will continue to update our website with information www.moniteau covid19.com.

If you have questions, please consult a factual source, such as www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus or www.CDC.gov. The community can also call MDHSS 24-hour hotline (877)435-8411.