



# JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

## NEWS

**FOR RELEASE: Immediately (3/18/20)**

**For more information contact:**

Bart Hagston, Administrator

618/684-3143, ext. 100

### INDIVIDUAL IN JACKSON COUNTY TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Jackson County Health Department was notified late this afternoon of a Jackson County resident who tested positive for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). The individual, a female in her 50s, is doing well and is at home on isolation. This is the first laboratory confirmed positive of COVID-19 in Jackson County. This individual is thought to have been exposed to the novel coronavirus through recent travel to another state. This individual is not allowed to leave home until they are well and can no longer transmit the disease.

Public health officials have begun an investigation of this case, speaking with individuals who she may have come into contact with before this diagnosis. Through this investigation, public health may place other individuals on home quarantine if they are determined to have had significant exposure. Such individuals may not be symptomatic, but are quarantined for a period of time which allows symptoms to develop and pass, without posing risk to others. If you are contacted by public health officials, please respond promptly.

The number of COVID-19 cases in Illinois has risen dramatically over the past week. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), there were 128 new individuals with COVID-19 identified in Illinois today, bringing the confirmed total in the state to 288 individuals.

We can expect more cases to be confirmed locally, as the number of tests being conducted is increasing. The number of cases can be reduced by adhering to public health guidance on social distancing, washing hands frequently, disinfecting commonly touched surfaces, and staying home when you are ill.

COVID-19 shares many symptoms with more common respiratory diseases. If you have a fever, cough or difficulty breathing, call your health care provider for further guidance. In addition, Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) has established a 24-hour COVID-19 hotline at 1-844-988-7800. Clinicians there will answer questions, assess each caller and advise on next steps for evaluation or potential testing.

The public is asked to follow and share trusted sources of information on COVID-19. The spread of incorrect information during disease outbreaks can lead people to take actions which may not be beneficial to their own health or the health of others. Follow the CDC, IDPH and JCHD websites and social media accounts for such trusted information. Public health officials will not be releasing more specific details about this individual due to privacy issues.

###