



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Macon County Health Department

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Human coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause mild to moderate respiratory illnesses like the common cold and pneumonia. The novel coronavirus, named COVID-19, is a new strain in this family of coronavirus that was discovered in China in late 2019.

Several agencies in Macon County are taking proactive steps to prepare for the possibility of any positive cases of COVID-19 in our community. 40 representatives from healthcare agencies, public health, EMS, 911, first responders, long-term care facilities, emergency management, law enforcement, judiciary, and County Commissioners, from across Macon County, are meeting to discuss response efforts. Their goal is to work together to deliver a response that provides maximum protection for first responders and healthcare workers, while at the same time provide the best possible care for a person testing positive for COVID-19 or any infectious disease. This group works in coordination with the Department of Health and Senior Services for proactive measures to maintain up to date information in all response efforts. Ongoing communication between these organizations is vital for prevention and preparation should this become an immediate concern for our community.

Symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, shortness of breath and cough. Call your doctor if you have these symptoms; and, have been in close contact with someone who is positive with COVID-19, or, have travelled outside the country where the virus is widespread which at this time are China, Iran, Italy, or South Korea. Dr. Randall Williams, Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, stated that “the risk to the general public in Missouri, especially without the history of travel to China, is still considered low.”

Should you exhibit these symptoms and recently travelled outside the country, call ahead to your doctor or to the Macon County Health Department to discuss risk assessment and possible testing.

COVID-19 is transmitted through respiratory droplets that are spread person to person when you sneeze or cough, or, can live on surfaces. To protect yourself and others from illness –

- Stay home when you are sick and avoid close contact with others (at least 6 feet), no matter what the illness
- Cover your sneeze and cough to avoid spreading any illness
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water; if soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and avoid touching your face, especially after touching an unclean surface
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- The CDC does not recommend wearing a facemask if you are well, facemasks can be worn by those who are ill to prevent spreading their illness.

PUBLIC HEALTH MAKES LIFE BETTER

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PROVIDER
SERVICES PROVIDED ON A NONDISCRIMINATORY BASIS